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# ***JPRS Report***

## **Latin America**

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## LATIN AMERICA

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GUYANA, JAMAICA IN DISPUTE OVER GEORGETOWN PAPER

Guyana Letter to GLEANER

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 May 87 p 3

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, May 15, 1987

The Guyana government has released the text of a letter it sent to the "Jamaica Gleaner" accusing the newspaper of "unfair comment" and an "unwarranted attack" on the administration here in a May 5 editorial.

The May 12 letter from the Information Ministry to Gleaner Editor Dr Dudley Stokes, took exception to the editorial comment that the Guyana government's failure to grant foreign exchange to the new independent private weekly, **Stabroek News**, was threatening the paper's existence.

It details the Guyana Government's policy towards the **Stabroek News**, which said yesterday it may be forced to close if it does not raise funding overseas or if the government does not release foreign exchange for it to purchase a press and other vital equipment.

Following is the text of the letter, signed by Terrence Holder, Head of Information Services:

"Our attention has been drawn to a CANA report of your editorial of Tuesday, May 5, 1987 on the subject of the **Stabroek News**, a Guyanese newspaper.

"That report, if accurate, claims that you alleged that **Stabroek News** was likely to cease publication because of difficulties in ob-

taining foreign exchange for its operations. You are then quoted as follows:-

"The closure of the Stabroek News would be a sure indication that the Government of Guyana by not granting the newspaper foreign exchange to pay its foreign costs, was not truly committed to expanding the freedom of its people."

"The above mentioned comment is most unfair and constitutes an unwarranted attack on the Government of Guyana. I am sure that if you had been familiar with the facts leading up to the establishment of **Stabroek News** you would not have written as you did.

"On June 11, 1986, at the request of Mr David Decaires and Mr Martin Carter (two of the promoters of the newspaper) President Hoyte met them along with Mr Ken Gordon, at that time managing director of the **Trinidad Express** paper, to discuss the publication of **Stabroek News**.

"Some time prior to that date, Mr Decaires and Mr Carter had met President Hoyte at the presidential secretariat, outlined to him a proposal for publishing a weekly newspaper and asked for the government's blessing.

"The president replied that (1) there is nothing in the law, or in his government's policy to prevent them from publishing the newspaper.

"He pointed out to them, however, that having regard to the prevailing financial exchange stringencies, he could not guarantee them any foreign exchange for their operations.

"Mr Decaires then explained that they were not seeking any foreign exchange, because they had worked out a credit facility arrangement with Mr Ken Gordon of the **Trinidad Express** under which the newspaper would be printed in Trinidad and Tobago.

"Under this arrangement the paper would be "pasted up" in Guyana and printed in Trinidad and Tobago by the Express.

"The promoters had invited Mr Ken Gordon to be present at the meeting of June 11 to confirm the arrangement and, in particular, the 18-month credit facility.

"In response to the president's question as to what would happen after the expiration of the 18-month period, the parties replied that the arrangement would be reviewed at that time.

"The newspaper was duly launched at a function held on December 6, 1986, at which the president was represented by the minister responsible for Information. The minister made a short speech welcoming the newspaper and wishing it success.

"The first issue of the **Stabroek News** appeared on December 5, 1986 and since then it has appeared regularly each week. The arrangements with the **Trinidad Express** therefore seem to have been working well. The first intimation the government had about the possibility of a closure was from your editorial.

"I should mention that in the course of his discussions with the president, Mr Decaires sought government's concurrence in a proposal to permit certain regional newspaper companies (including the **Gleaner**, I believe) to acquire a minority shareholding in the company.

"He explained that these regional shareholders would make their equity contribution by supplying certain inputs for the newspaper.

"The president replied that, although it was government's policy that the Guyanese media should be owned by Guyanese, he did not think that the proposal would do violence to the policy. He therefore readily agreed in principle.

"I think that I should also add that the government subsequently learnt from reports that the **Stabroek News** had received a subsidy of 110,000 (US) dollars from an American foundation called the National Endowment for Democracy. There are current reports that **Stabroek News** has been seeking further subsidies from this foundation.

From the above mentioned facts and explanations, it will be seen that the **Stabroek News** was launched on the basis of (a) a clear understanding on the part of the promoters that the government was in no position, in the current circumstances, to provide foreign exchange for its operations and (b) a clear representation by the promoters that they required no foreign exchange and would be able to publish for at least 18 months as a result of certain arrangements with the **Trinidad Express**.

In the circumstances then, the strictures against the Government of Guyana which were contained in your editorial could hardly be reasonable or well founded."

#### GLEANER's Response

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 May 87 p 3

[Text]

**GLEANER Chairman and Managing Director Mr. Oliver Clarke made the following statement in reaction to the CANA report:**

"It would appear that the Government of Guyana has a serious internal communication problem. The CANA report suggests that President Hoyte had readily agreed to allow the **Gleaner** to invest in the **Stabroek News**. His Minister of Finance, however, subsequently took "...a decision not to approve the issue of shares in any case where the company to which the shares are to be issued is not a local one." We have not yet been advised that President Hoyte has overridden his Minister of Finance's decision.

The Government of Guyana knows fully well that a newspaper cannot continue indefinitely

operating dependent on grant funds. If Guyana is to enjoy the benefits of a free press the Government must find foreign exchange to allow the newspaper to import its raw materials to continue to function. Otherwise, as we have said before "the closure of the **Stabroek News** would not only be a tragedy for its promoters but would also be a sure indication that the Government of Guyana, by not granting the newspaper foreign exchange to pay for its foreign costs, was not truly committed to expanding the freedom of its people. The country of Guyana would lose a great part of its international credibility."

The story indicates that a letter has been written to the **Gleaner** by the Government of Guyana. This has not yet been received."

/9274  
CSO: 3298/224

CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL UNIT FACING JAMAICA, OTHER PULLOUTS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 May 87 p 3

[Text]

TWELVE YEAR-OLD Caribbean Agricultural Research Development Institute (CARDI) is now facing the threat of member states pulling out, with Jamaica being the first to serve notice of its intention to withdraw.

Jamaica, which is one of the institute's most delinquent contributors, served notice on April 1 of its intention to withdraw by April 1, 1988. Before a country can withdraw its membership, it must first serve one year's notice to the Caricom Secretariat.

This decision could, however, be rescinded, said Derrick Dyer, Executive Director of CARDI. He speculated that this was a move designed to force the hand of the Board of Directors, who, in the eyes of Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga, appeared not to be doing anything towards the much vaunted restructuring and reorganising of CARDI.

According to Mr Dyer, who is himself a Jamaican, Prime Minister Seaga will either affirm the decision or reject it altogether, after the next Caricom Heads of Government meeting due to be held in St Lucia at the end of June.

**Objected Strongly**

Responding to statements made by the Bank and General Workers Union (BGWU) and the West Indian Group of University Teachers' (WIGUT) that the recommendations for the management and reorganisation of CARDI is a formula for its destruction, and that the Task Force which made these recommendations consisted of persons not fully aware of the region's and CARDI's problems, Mr Dyer commented:

"Unions are entitled to their own opinion, but I am satisfied with the composition of the Task Force, and I accept full responsibility for the recommendations and proposals which they have made."

One of these recommendations is for a reduction in both professional and support staff at the local unit and headquarters of the institute, located in St Augustine.

Both unions have objected most strongly to this and other proposals which are contained in a document entitled "Proposals for the Reorganisation and Management of CARDI."

Meanwhile, the unions are scheduled to meet with Minister of Food Production, Marine Exploitation, Forestry and the Environment today at his office to present their proposals before he delivers the opening address at the Board of Directors meeting the following day.

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CSO: 3298/224

CDB PRESIDENT DEMAS COMMENTS ON AREA POLITICAL UNION

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 21 May 87 p 16

[Text]

ST GEORGE'S, Wednesday (CANA) — President of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) William Demas has ruled out the possibility of Jamaica, Belize and the Bahamas being part of any political union set up by Caribbean Community (CARI-C O M ) member countries.

He told reporters here that the quest for political integration would have to start with Caricom members belonging to the seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and then extend to Guyana, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago.

According to Demas, Jamaica, Belize, and the Bahamas would have to be excluded from the political integration process in the Eastern Caribbean because of distance and "other factors."

He referred to Jamaica's experience with the ill-fated 1958-62 Feder-

ation when there was a referendum which resulted in its pulling out.

"I am not displaying any antipathy to Belize, the Bahamas or Jamaica. It's just the facts of life. It is unrealistic to think that they can join a political union. This is my frank opinion," he said.

Jamaica, Belize, and the Bahamas are engaged with ten other Caribbean islands in Caricom which is basically aimed at greater economic integration.

Demas spoke of seeing political integration making it easier for the Eastern Caribbean islands to deal with problems confronting them.

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CSO: 3298/224

FOREIGN MINISTER: GRENADA INVASION MIGHT HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 1 May 87 p 1

[Text]

TORONTO, Thursday, (CANA) — Barbados Foreign Minister Sir James Tudor said Caribbean Governments could have forestalled the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada in 1983, which was triggered by a military coup in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was executed.

"The American intervention, even if planned before Mr. Bishop's death, could have been avoided if Commonwealth Caribbean Governments had used their ingenuity by examining more ideas than the option they thought available to them," Sir James said here last night.

Addressing the annual meeting of the Toronto branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society, the minister said: "Action taken before Bishop was murdered could well have saved his life and the lives of the scores of persons who perished with him in that hideous episode."

### Had authority

Sir James said that at the time of the Grenada upheaval there were at least eight members of the Queen's Privy Council in the Caribbean.

"It was within their power, did they but know it, to request the Queen to convene a meeting of the Privy Council in the Caribbean (to discuss the crisis)," he said.

Sir James said that it would have been necessary to invite the British Prime Minister and foreign secretary

to participate in the meeting.

"Moreover, since it was desirable that the Caribbean itself should be seen to be united in action, it would have been necessary, in those circumstances, to have invited her majesty to that meeting, in her capacity as head of the Commonwealth, the president of Guyana and the Prime Ministers of Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago since she is not the head of state of these three which are republics," he said.

### Was alternative

"No one is entitled to brush this alternative aside without comparing its obvious merits with the option which was taken at the time," he remarked.

"No one is entitled to say that it would not have worked," he added.

He told the meeting the military intervention was discourteous to the Grenada head of state since it involved the entry of foreign troops "without the courtesy of prior notification being shown."

Sir James said the invasion occurred "because the constitutional resources of the Commonwealth were not brought to bear upon the exigencies of the crisis."

He said the Commonwealth should learn from the Grenada experience that it should first exploit its own genius for "sensible contrivance" before it assumed the solutions to difficulties always lay outside of its fellowship.

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CSO: 3298/226

BLP LEADERSHIP SEEN IN FLUX; SENATOR MILLER MAKING GAINS

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 26 Apr 87 p 4

[Douglas Leopold Phillips column "Voice of a Democrat"]

[Text]

Many Barbadians observing the antics of the Barbados Labour Party at this time have been questioning the real reason behind their having a massive public meeting — as it is being billed — at this time.

Some members of the BLP have described it to the Press as a "comeback" meeting, others see it as an inopportune time since the Opposition was given fullest co-operation, prime television time and additional speaking time to give their views of the state of the nation in their recent Budget replay presentation.

So there is a lot of confusion and out of this confusion yet another story has emerged. There has apparently been widespread dissatisfaction in the BLP with Mr. Henry Forde's leadership style. For some time, the alternatives were bleak. But then it was realised that there was a candidate for the BLP leadership who was both active and entirely devoted to politics — Senator Billie Miller.

The things that endeared Senator Miller to this role were her stalwart support of the BLP Government. Her sticking with the Cabinet of Prime Minister Adams and later Prime Minister St. John through thick and thin. This was in contrast to Mr. Forde who left the Cabinet in 1981 even though he was well respected and somewhat of a stabilising force due to his well known ability to please nearly everybody and extricate himself from controversy, as he did when he correctly washed his hands of the Pele matter and passed it on to Prime Minister Adams to deal with.

But not everyone in the BLP believes that qualities such as these are characteristic of a leader. Senator Miller also has the distinction of once being considered for the post of Deputy Prime Minister to Mr. St. John. This appointment was stalled when Mr. St. John received a bitter warning that such a move could compromise the entire Cabinet's support for him.

### Devote time

Senator Miller, an attorney by profession, has declined to return to practise so that she can devote

her time to developing the BLP. This gives her a considerable advantage over all other members of the Opposition.

The only set-back is that Ms. Miller does not have a seat, and has little prospect of regaining the City seat for some time if the majority Mr. Peter Miller received is an indication of how the City residents feel about her representation. So, the BLP will obviously have to hope for a By-election soon. In the event that this is not to be the case, Ms. Miller may have to serve warning on Mr. Forde that she will contest the Chairmanship of the BLP and frankly admit that she is interested in the political leadership.

It is perhaps because of this strong challenge anticipated from Ms. Miller that Mr. Forde has sought to keep his image in the public eye, and now seeks to use this public meeting to demonstrate that the BLP has some strength. Attendance at the meeting will be a critical factor. So will Mr. Forde's crowd appeal. If he cannot come out of this exercise on top, he may lose to Ms. Miller by default.

It has also come out that Ms. Miller has been critical of Mr. Forde's approach to several matters. She has been concerned that since he was not in the last Cabinet, he may embarrass the Opposition by taking one of his "principled" stands without regard to what the files may show.

It is this concern that has led the BLP to shy away from controversial issues in Parliament like the Transport Board, CBC, the National Assistance Board and others. But Ms. Miller would clearly be upset that the Opposition in the House may not be defending the former administration's policies as eloquently and convincing as she would wish.

So as the battle rages, Mr. Owen Arthur whom former Prime Minister Adams had set up as a bright, young future leader of the BLP has been pushed into the background as a mere economic researcher and spokesman who assists in that area but is too inexperienced for the battle for leadership.

Mr. Arthur is perceived by some as a relic of the late Prime Minister who has failed to live up to expectations as a possible future leader. Certainly he is less eloquent than Ms. Miller, he does not have a

"profession" that is independent, he does not come from a family of BLP stalwarts like Ms. Miller and he has not made the impact required to set a man or woman apart as exceptional.

It is this kind of confusion that the BLP is now dealing with. It is not made any less easy by the often controversial statements of Mr. David Simmons. Mr. Simmons has pursued an independent path in the BLP lashing out at former Cabinet Ministers and policies pursued by the last BLP Government. This has been noted by the rank and file and has not been admired.

He need to understand the importance of being a team player at critical times like these. Ms. Miller strikes BLP supporters as having the necessary resolve and determination to challenge Mr. Simmons for this attitude. Mr. Forde clearly hasn't.

BLP supporters will obviously hope that tonight's meeting will answer many of the questions that affect the survival of the Party with a strong leader. They hope that Mr. Forde will not be like Mr. St. John, but that he will realise that leadership is for men with fearless determination, resolve, commitment and instinct. Ms. Billie Miller has no doubts that she is woman enough to man the show!!

/9274  
CSO: 3298/226

DRUG RAIDS SPARK POLICE DISPUTE, QUERIES ABOUT 'BIG BOYS'

CANA Roundup

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 May 87 p 4

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados: (CANA)—A series of surprise Police raids, aimed at curbing the use and trafficking in narcotics in Barbados, has sparked some controversy, including a sharp public exchange between Police Commissioner, Orville Durant, and one of his assistants.

At issue are the night-time Police raids, mostly in low-income slums in and around Bridgetown, which senior officers describe as part of ongoing action to break the back of Barbados's burgeoning narcotics problem.

Convictions for drugs have moved from a mere four in 1970 to 276 last year.

But police reaction to the Police raids has not been entirely enthusiastic, with some of the most stringent criticisms coming from Assistant Police Commissioner for Crime, Charles Lynn himself, and from ruling Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Parliamentary back-bencher and a leading anti-narcotics compaigner, Dr Erskine Simmons.

Both Lynn and Simmons contend that the raids have had little effect in dealing with the big drugs traders and have resulted mostly in small-time pushers and users being arrested.

Former Attorney-General Louis Tull, defending one of those arrested in the raids, complained that in some cases people's rights were being trampled.

Although only about 30 percent of those detained during the raids have actually been charged before the Courts, Police officers involved insist that the level of their success is also measured by the amount of intelligence gleaned as a result of the operations.

The Nation newspaper quoted one senior detective as saying: "This haul is perfect evidence that the exercises carried out earlier in the month have paid off, and are continuing to pay off."

## Criticism of Police Action

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 23 Apr 87 p 5

[**"The Hotline" column, by Adonijah, rewrite editor of the NATION newspapers:  
"No Room for Rambo in Barbados"**]

[Text]

THE POLICE FORCE may have come to the conclusion that its operation of April 11 has gone down well with the Barbadian public.

This column would like to disabuse the force of that belief. There are many people, publicly silent for reasons best known to themselves, who have expressed their concern and fears to this writer. That being so, it would be a sin for this column to remain silent. As it is written, in the face of wrong even the stones shall cry out.

There are also those who, safely (as they think) protected in their cocoon of middle-class aspirations, do not feel in any way involved in or affected by the police methods of April 11. They would do well to remember the words of the late Robert Nesta "Bob" Marley: "When the rain falls, it don't fall on one man's housetop."

The mere facts of the police operation, termed a "sweep" by the police, tell a story that should raise the eyebrows of all thinking people. More than 100 persons were reported picked up by the police in what was supposed to be an anti-crime operation. Twenty-nine charges were laid against 28 persons, including 15 charges for loitering.

In other words, about 80 percent of the people picked up by the police turned out to have been innocent of any charge. Of those who faced and still face charges, about half have loitering as their offence.

Former Attorney General Louis Tull was reported in the same edition of the SUNDAY SUN as describing the operation as "a night of terror, when the Constitution was abrogated." This has been denied by the Commissioner of Police, but it bears more examination.

The statistics of the operation reveal that an overwhelmingly large percentage of the persons picked up by the police on that night were in truth about their lawful business. This is the only reasonable conclusion to which one can come, since the majority of them were not charged.

Are we to consider this acceptable? Is it to be a fact of life in Barbados that one can expect to be picked up by the police if one is found in certain areas? What about people who live in the vicinity of these areas or have legitimate reasons to be in these areas? Do they not have the right to expect to go about their lawful business without being picked up?

But then the Commissioner was reported in the DAILY NATION of April 13 as saying that every person picked up was suspected of involvement in some form of criminal activity.

Is this an indication that police intelligence has not been providing as much information as required? The Commissioner was reported as saying, in the same Press source quoted above, that the small operations used in the past were not "biting enough".

If its intelligence system is not working, that then is a question which the force must address. We have heard the police repeatedly in recent times appealing for more public cooperation. If the force has lost some of this, it must ask itself why. Prominent members of the force have made it clear that they hold the media largely responsible.

This is not the answer, however. Far from presenting the police in a bad light the

media almost on a daily basis make conscious decisions not to publish certain things because of the realisation that they would erode public confidence in the police. That is an issue in itself.

No, the police must take the blame for any loss of public support. Especially since the Malone Commission's findings, the public has shown less respect for the police, a fact that has not been helped by the Rambo image adopted by some members of the force. The April 11 operation has not helped in this regard either.

There should be no room for such operations in Barbados, a black country small enough for everyone to know a member of everyone else's family. Such actions can bring about feelings of resentment which can manifest themselves in ways which most of us do not desire.

In such an eventuality the police must ask themselves who bears the responsibility for creating that environment.

The Commissioner has been reported as saying that if necessary the police will repeat their "sweep". Better counsel should be sought. GUIDANCE.

## Assistant Commissioner Lunn's Views

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 26 Apr 87 p 1B

[Article by Roxanne Gibbs]

[Text]

**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (CRIME), Charles Lunn, is against the new measures being used by the Force in its fight against drugs.**

Lunn, who until last year headed the Drug Enforcement Unit of the Royal Barbados Police Force, told the SUNDAY SUN, "These present raids, which are concentrated in low income and depressed areas, only result in the arrest of people with very little drugs, many of them repeat offenders."

According to Lunn, "We need to go after the big guys.

"The small guys have become dependent on drugs just as the diabetic is on insulin and the hypertension sufferer on his prescription.

"So, for this system to be of any advantage, the courts would need to view these cases and agree on an alternative recourse, referral for counselling or psychiatric care and the person made to do some community work."

**Get it at the source**

The veteran crime

fighter argued that to round up what he called the "small man" and impose a sentence, did not take into account that drug addiction was an illness and, like any other disease, must be treated.

The fight to combat drugs should be concentrated at the points of importation, he contended.

"Very little drugs are manufactured here; most of it comes from outside, through the postal service, in containers at the port, the airport, any possible way you can imagine.

"Help should be sent to the airport, and the ports and we need a good coastal patrol service.

"Whatever their weaknesses, nevertheless, the customs officers have been doing a wonderful job over the years. If it had not been for them, the drugs situation may have been worse."

Lunn, who served as a member of the United Nations Committee on Crime Prevention and Control from 1983 to January 1987, says too, that education about drugs is vital.

"But it should not be done by our policemen.

Our policemen, with few exceptions, know nothing about the abuse of drugs to start with.

"They cannot help the children recognise certain readily available drugs — which in any case should not be encouraged — how to counsel anyone, to whom any victim should be referred, or what to do when an overdose is suspected.

"These are areas which our health and education system should be addressing.

"A policeman going into a classroom to teach children about drugs is having an adverse effect. It's the experts, the psychologists and psychiatrists who should impart the facts to teachers who, in turn, should educate the children."

The answer to the drug problem, Lunn adds, lies in the hands of the people themselves...."Laws and penalties we have always had; yet the trafficking and abuse continues.

"One thing our people need to know is that if these drugs are removed, then there will be a reduction in other crimes".

## Drug-Arrest Statistics

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 26 Apr 87 p 1B

[Text]

IN AN attempt to show the correlation between the abuse of illicit drugs and the rise in crimes against persons and property, Assistant Commissioner of Police Charles Lunn provided the table, left, which shows the rise of the number of arrests over a 16-year period.

Assistant Commissioner Lunn also provided statistics for other years, but because of a lack of space we have randomly chosen three years to show the correlation between the rise in the use of illicit drugs and the rise of other crimes.

The table also gives some idea of the low number of Barbadians arrested for drugs in the early 70s, as compared to the 80s.

In examining the statistics consideration should be given to unreported crimes, and reported crimes, where arrests have not been made.

THE RISE OF DRUGS 1970-'86			
DRUGS	1970	1976	1986
Persons charged	04	37	276
Nationals	01	19	259
Non-nationals	.03	18	19

  

As the incidents of drug abuse rose so did other crimes			
	9	17	10
Murders	44	43	65
Rape	36	31	159
Robbery	66	43	159
Burglary	113	113	248
Larceny from shops and stores	729	743	1002
Other larcenies			

## Lunn on Corruption

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 26 Apr 87 p 1B

[Text]

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE in charge of Crime, Charles Lunn, has lashed out at corruption among some policemen in the Force.

Lunn did not say how widespread such corruption was, but said, "If you have two, that's two too many and the people of Barbados should demand an investigation.

"It is time we stop offering lame excuses, such as media intervention and lack of public support, for our inability to properly manage the affairs of the people, expected of us as law enforcement officers," said Lunn.

Lunn also threw out a challenge to attorneys.

"Attorneys form an integral part of the jus-

tice enforcement and administration system of this country and must take a more positive stand through their Bar Association, against some of the crimes which are destroying this society, in particular drug trafficking.

"A few of them (attorneys)," he says "have already taken a stand on the side of law enforcement and may have been frustrated, disappointed and disillusioned for the breaches of confidence on the part of some policemen".

Lunn says our laws are adequate, but they are not being enforced.

The problem he says, is, "The police aren't catching anyone which would give the courts the opportunity to impose stiff penalties."

## Interview With Holder

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 26 Apr 87 pp 25A, 26A

[Text] Mervyn Holder is Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of operations, and the man who led the police raids on April 12 and 16, in areas around Bridgetown.

Assistant Commissioner Holder, was also the man sent to put the Grenada Police Force in order after the United States military invasion in 1983.

After his return to Barbados he was promoted to Assistant Commissioner.

Today, the Assistant Commissioner in a question and answer session with SUNDAY SUN editor Roxanne Gibbs, tells why he thinks the raids were justified.

**Q:** Within the space of two weeks police in Barbados seem to have moved away from their traditional methods of policing and are using what is being described as a more 'big city style' method in the fight against drugs. Is this new method your last resort and does this mean that your previous methods have failed?

**A:** What do you mean by big city methods? What do you mean when you say that we have moved away from our traditional methods?

**Q:** What I mean is, — police arrive in an area with a number of their men, sweep up 100 people, and take them down to the station. Normally we see such things happening in big cities such as New York, London and so on, but not necessarily so in Barbados.

**A:** Well, that is not correct, because we have used these methods before; we have done what are now known as "sweeps" and "raids" on several occasions in past years. It is only that what is happening now is that we have updated our methods according to the actual intelligence we have got and the size of the problem. This is all we have been doing in recent times, but it is not that we have used any new methods, or that we have copied any person from anywhere else.

**Q:** You mean you have gone into areas before and swept up a number of people? Is the number of people more this time or what?

**A:** The number of incidents which have been reported to us seems to be on the increase and therefore the number of persons who are picked up have also similarly increased.

**Q:** In other words, you have done it before, but on a smaller scale?

**A:** According to the size of the problem which existed then; we are just trying to grapple with the problem as it is, our methods are geared to match the problem that now exists.

**Q:** Since the last raid, Commissioner Durant has been quoted as saying the raids had been decided upon because small operations in the past were not 'biting enough'.

What were the small operations in the past like? And did these last two raids bite enough? In other words, were you satisfied with the amount of drugs seized?

**A:** What I believe Commissioner Durant has referred to is the fact that we had always been paying attention to the approach to

the use of drugs and the abuse of drugs in Barbados and we had developed squads to deal with such problems throughout the length and breadth of Barbados. These were small squads which worked on a daily basis, but it became apparent to us from the number of complaints made by members of the public, and from reports in the Press, that these operations may not have been as forceful as the problem demanded.

Therefore, we thought that it would be better to conduct larger operations to see whether we would have a greater thrust and it is my feeling that these operations have really added a greater impact on the drug problem.

**Q:** In what way? Have you confiscated large quantities of drugs within the last two weeks?

**A:** Well, there are many ramifications to the drug problem, you see. Coming out of the drug situation you get other crimes as well, where people break houses; there is prostitution involved and a number of other crimes; and even though on the first occasion it was reported that we only had one drug case, it did bite, in that a number of other persons were charged with loitering and other offences which in our opinion take place as a result of the drug business.

**Q:** So in relation to your operations in the past, would you say raids added up to much more than what happened then? Operations in the past did not see that many charges, maybe?

**A:** No, there were not that many charges in past operations all at once, but, over a period of time we have had, I would think, more charges over the period of time. What the large operations were geared to do was to make an impact on the situation all in one go.

**Q:** So in that case would you call them successful?

**A:** I do call it successful, I do think that it is very successful.

**Q:** They talk about the difference between the sweep and the raid. The first one was a sweep, where you had no warrants.

Why would you have gone out without warrants one time and with the second time? Is it that one brings in more than the other?

**A:** It's not a matter of one bringing in more than the other. According to the intelligence we have, we might sweep at some times and other times it might be more prudent to take warrants and according to our information or intelligence we act.

On the first occasion we did a sweep and the sweep gave us certain intelligence, after which we decided to carry out warrants. Added to that there was additional information which came to us after we had done our first sweep. People were impressed and they liked the action, because there are a number of people out there who wanted to see this sort of action and they then volunteered information.

**Q:** People from those same areas?

**A:** Yes, people from those same areas.

**Q:** There seems to have been a change. Last September the Commissioner in an address at a drug seminar said, and I quote, 'In our earlier policy we tried to work with these pushers to assist us in bring in the big boys but they have given us no assistance whatsoever. Indeed, it is the little man who has been protecting and shielding the big boys. If its information you're looking for isn't the exercise futile?

**A:** Well, I have myself not heard this comment by the Commissioner. If you quoted him correctly, what I believe the Commissioner meant was that, as regards the pushers, we try to work

with them and this is the way we get intelligence in order to do our work.

Police must have somebody to inform and we were working with these. This is to my knowledge in order to get information on the bigger sources, but these people seem to have an allegiance to these bigger sources and do not tell us. As a result we have to change our methods and then try to stop the market by sweeping the abusers — those people who use and abuse illegal drugs. We find that this can also be another source for getting our intelligence.

**Q:** So within these last two operations you have gathered lots more intelligence?

**A:** Of course we have gathered intelligence in our sweeps.

**Q:** Would that then lead to a third?

**A:** What I can say is that we are not letting up. We are going to continue this until we break the neck of this thing.

**Q:** Also in the address at the drug seminar the Commissioner said I have directed police officers to pursue both the little man and the big boys with equal vigour.' The criticism right now is that these raids are only pulling in the

little man. What of the big boys? Is there also a plan to deal with them? And how do you propose to convince the public that you are serious about it?

**A;** I do not know why the Commissioner found it necessary to give a direction to go after big boys and little man with equal vigour. For my part I go after anybody who commits crime with the same vigour, and this would be my policy, my personal policy,

Anybody I find in the drug trade be he small man or big boy I would go after him with the same zeal, and this has always been my feeling and will continue to be my feeling. I don't know that there is really any big boy or small man where crime is concerned. As far as I am concerned big or small in the drug trade is committing crime, and deserves the same attention by the police.

**Q:** So is there no real plan?

**A:** I do not have any separate plan. I have one plan to deal with drugs whoever it is, and this is how I would deal with it.

**Q:** Do you ever get any information about drugs or drug parties, in middle class-type areas?

**A:** I have got no specific information of any parties in any areas. I have heard about drugs being used or abused in Barbados, but I have got no specific information or intelligence about drugs in any middle class areas. . . I welcome anybody who has any information on those or any such situations to inform us. If they tell me, then I would take similar action as I am taking in the sweeps. . . so long as the information is good information and can be relied upon. I have had no hesitation, no fear at all about carrying out my duties.

**Q:** You mean so far all the information that you have gathered is information that has led you to these particular areas?

**A:** Yes, and that is why I have swept those areas; but again, if I find information that there is any behaviour of that kind in any other areas, no matter where it is, I would treat it with the same sort of zeal.

**Q:** Earlier I had asked something about the amount of drugs picked up. You did not give me the answer. You just said that it was successful, but you did not say anything about the amount of cocaine, or marijuana that was seized

**A:** I would not have offhand here the amounts, but in the two raids we have picked up quantities of marijuana and cocaine in both these raids. The second raid brought in more than the first raid, but as I have said the first raid took care of a number of other situations at the same time and I think that it paid its dividends.

**Q:** But would you be able to give me quantities?

**A:** I cannot give you quantities right off the top of my head.

**Q:** Would you say a great amount?

**A:** I am not in a position to give you quantities right now, but several persons were charged, about eight persons on one occasion and one on another, quantities are what I cannot give you off the top of my head. I know there were two quantities of cocaine and various quantities of marijuana.

**Q:** Judging from comments on call-in radio programmes and letters in the Press, it would seem that the public is not in support of what is happening. Do you think that this reaction will force the police to back off any?

**A:** First of all, when you say the public is not in support I do not agree that the public is not in support, because there are quite a number of members of the public, who called to congratulate us, almost giving wholehearted support on what we are now doing; but, although we need the support of the public, we will not be dictated to by the public as to what we should do, if we are happy that what we are doing is the correct thing.

**Q:** For those who don't seem to be in support of what has been happening, is there anything else you think that might clear up any misunderstanding or misconception, that they might have about these raids?

**A:** The subject with which we are dealing is such a difficult one, it is difficult to see any plan of action the police might embark upon which can please everybody.

We cannot hope to please everybody and what we will just do is continue to do what to us seems right, so long as we are sure that it is the correct course of action.

### Durant's Position

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 27 Apr 87 p 1

[Article by Hartley Henry]

[Text]

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE Orville Durant says no amount of destructive criticism or public pressure will deter him and his officers from cracking the drug trade in Barbados.

He told the DAILY NATION yesterday: "Our action (the recent raids) was based on persistent reports from concerned law-abiding citizens and since those raids we have had a great deal of information coming in. Our programme will continue."

Mr. Durant emphasised the raids were carried out in districts from where persistent reports of drug distribution had been originating and, inspite of what some people might say, the police and certainly he as Commissioner of Police had not received any information and not acted upon it.

He said: "Information has been coming in on Greenfields, Nelson Street and these other districts. There is no doubt that these are the key distribution areas."

The Commissioner also said the two raids had quite an impact on the public because since the first one information to the police had more than doubled and a number of civic-minded persons had expressed support for the measures.

Mr. Durant has challenged any Barbadian to say that he or she informed the force of a so-called "big boy" or "big boy district" that's involved in drugs and the force had not acted on it.

Furthermore, he said, to put the lie to the myth that the police were afraid to touch the "big boys", with immediate effect he was making himself available to speak to any person willing to volunteer information on the drug trade.

Mr. Durant said: "Let them put me on the spot. Let them say that they spoke to me and gave me information and I did not act upon it. We are going to bust the drug trade in this country and no amount of pressure by those persons committed to protecting it will deter us. In the final analysis the public will have to decide."

Mr. Durant also put the lie to persistent reports that he was not now enjoying popular support and respect among junior members of the force.

He said: "It had not occurred to me that my leadership of the force was in question. I do not have any difficulty in relating to my senior officers nor the rank and file.

### Durant Response to Lunn

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 27 Apr 87 p 1

[Text]

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE Orville Durant yesterday described as "shocking" statements made by Assistant Commissioner Charles Lunn in a SUNDAY SUN interview.

Mr. Lunn charged that the present raids by the police were concentrated in low-income and depressed areas and resulted in the arrest of people with very little drugs, many of them repeat offenders.

He suggested the force ought to go after "the big guys".

Mr. Durant said "Mr. Lunn is fully aware that we have been carrying out regular sweep operations on beaches, the streets and in several residential districts such as Greenfields, Church Village, Orleans, Chapman Lane and other areas for the purpose of curtailing drug abuse and drug pushing in those areas ... and

The Commissioner pointed out that up until recently Mr. Lunn was himself the leading investigator in the force's efforts to identify and bring to justice the big operators in the drug trade.

He emphasised: "Mr. Lunn was given a totally free hand to take whatever action he wanted to take."

On the claims by Mr. Lunn of corruption in the force the Commissioner responded by stating that Mr. Lunn "knows that every suspicious case coming to our notice is promptly investigated and acted upon.

"Indeed he is one of only four officers who are fully involved in such investigations ...".

## New Raids, Arrests

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 4 May 87 p 1

[Text]

The Royal Barbados Police Force continued its weekend drug raids last Saturday night and for the first time the net was extended to the northern parishes.

Police public relations officer, acting Assistant Superintendent John Sealy said yesterday that five people were arrested and charged with unlawful possession of marijuana.

He said that a number of people picked up were also found with large quantities of cash. In one case, a man had Bds \$36 000 and a quantity of United States money while another man had more than Bds \$5 000 cash on his person.

The Police executed warrants last Saturday night at Paynes Bay, St. James; Farm Road, St. Peter; Chimborazo, St. Joseph and Ashby Alley, Church Village, Chapman Lane and Watkins Alley in Bridgetown.

### Bars, nightspots

A number of bars and nightspots were among the places raided, Mr. Sealy said.

The public relations officer reiterated that since the raids started, the Force had been receiving increasing co-operation from the public. "We have been getting more and more information which we are investigating and acting upon," he said.

The current sweeps and raids by the Police started on April 10 and have continued every weekend since. According to the Police, they are aimed at penetrating the drug trade and other criminal activity and are in response to increasing complaints from the public of an upsurge in these crimes.

People arrested have been charged with a number of offences including possession of illegal drugs, loitering, being armed with offensive weapons and causing a disturbance. In the first sweep a number of children were among those picked up.

## Ex-Attorney General's Views

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 4 May 87 p 1

[Text]

It is an "unfortunate misconception" that "big boys" (defined by their social standing) control the drug trade in Barbados.

This is the view of Opposition MP Mr. David Simmons who said on the radio programme "Point At Issue" yesterday that it was time that the Commissioner of Police made a public statement allaying the fears of the society and explaining the true position from the evidence which he had.

Mr. Simmons, who was Barbados' Attorney-General up to May last year when his party went out of office, said that up to the time he left office there was no convincing evidence to support the contention that those who controlled the drug trade were politicians, lawyers, doctors, businessmen and other so-called "big guns" who for the most part escaped justice.

"The society must stop speculating. A lot of innocent people, particularly

leading up to the last election, were tarnished and tarred with the brush that painted a picture that politicians were involved in drugs. This is not true," he said.

### **Lot of money**

He added: "I think that the Police know that there are no big people in society really involved in this drug trafficking business as people may assume. The big people involved in drugs may be people who are commanding a lot of money from the distribution of drugs but they are not big in the social sense."

His views were not shared by Government MP Dr. Erskine Simmons who said that the problem with drugs all over the world, and Barbados was no exception, was that the "big people" were bringing in drugs and destroying the "little people."

"Cocaine is a rich man's drug but I have been seeing hauls in the streets picking up little people who really need to go and get medical treatment."

Dr. Simmons said that the people on the streets knew who the "big people" were, people came into his office and told him who the big people were. "I am saying that if the Police are investigating, then the Police know who they are as well."

While he saw the need for some tightening of the drug laws, he said that the answer to the problem was to nab the "big people."

Dr. Simmons said: "People are afraid to talk to the Police because the people, quite rightly, interpret the fact that when they give information to the

Police, nothing happens."

### **Dangerous**

He said that when one was dealing with drug people, one was dealing with dangerous people and therefore when people gave information which was not used, then they felt that their lives were threatened. "People are afraid when it comes to drugs because they know that big people are involved and they know that if they have information and people feel they have information, people are prepared to get rid of them in order that the information does not come out."

Assistant Commissioner with responsibility for crime, Winfield Cummins highlighted some of the problems the Police faced in tracking down drug traffickers.

"Trafficking in drugs is one of those things which people go about very discreetly. It is not the kind of thing that one would openly come on the streets and discuss, hence the Police have got to be very cautious in their operations," he said.

He said that the Police depended largely on information from the public and so far had had some success in arresting people and seizing quantities of illegal drugs.

He said that the Police got most of their information in respect of low income areas. "I have never heard of vehicles parked in large numbers in the so-called sophisticated areas. The areas that the Police have been going into are those areas from which the intelligence has been coming. We are definitely getting to the root of it," he said.

### **Reader's Comment on Simmons**

Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 8-9 May 87 p 11

[Letter to the Editor]

[Text]

WHEN I READ them in both daily papers last Monday, I was rather amazed; and like an ache, it kept nagging me that the following foolish statements could have been made by former Attorney General David Simmons.

I quote: "I think the police know there are no big people in

the society really involved in this drug-trafficking business as people may assume." And, "The big people involved in drugs may be people who are commanding a lot of money from the distribution of drugs but they are not big in the social sense."

The first statement runs parallel to the usual complacent

thinking which emanates throughout my country. Every year during the hurricane season, we Barbadians always assume indifferently that after the likes of Janet of 1955, we will somehow continue to escape any such devastation. It is as though we say, we are humble and hence have a special protective shield surrounding us.

This is the same kind of childish logic espoused within the community, as far as the drug-trafficking is concerned, by some educated people.

Barbados' drug scene cannot be looked upon in total isolation and mouthfuls of rhetoric — nor despair. The mere connotations of the words, cocaine and marijuana, should awaken some sort of mafia-ism in our conscience, because of the well-established facts connected to the world's biggest money-earner.

Therefore, it stuns me that people will not acknowledge that a clan or group of so-called "big-boys" — irrespective of social standing — would thus be behind the major operations, money and so on, of this despicable trade. Else, basic logic would seem to have taken a swan-dive into turbulent waters. Where there is smoke, there's bound to be fire!

This "big boy" syndrome is sending shock-waves into certain sections of our community most disturbingly. So much so, that the term used seems to be causing special divisions amongst some; where we find that those on the right are accredited social status par excellence;

and the others on the left, devoid of any social attachments, but yet have lots of money.

It is unclear to me, but would a "big boy" live in an underdeveloped area after having amassed a considerable sum? And, if drug-trafficking is such a highly organised industry, would there be only small people involved?

Yet, while I ponder on such things, lo and behold, on Gut-taperk on that said day, a local "lick-mout Lou", professor of cement manufacturing, was heard chiding some doctor on another call-in programme for his enlightened opinion some days before on this "big boys" talk.

And to my deepest consternation, the moderator seemed to agree wholeheartedly with this stupid fellow's diatribe, recovering slightly, with a humorous little touch, and rapped the caller's knuckles seconds before the programme ended.

The call-to-arms to bring in the "big boys" is valid, and by far a more forceful exercise in which to engage our combined and devoted attention. I dare-say, the "big boy" pusher — whether he is in shorts or long pants — cannot be wished away by any class bias.

If we are seriously going to destroy the most heinous crime of today in Barbados, then we must all agree along lines of seriousness and commonsense in order to "free-up" our country from the mafia-type engagements and perpetrators — anytime — for all seasons. — MICHAEL A. KNIGHT.

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CSO: 3298/225

ECONOMIC, TRADE ISSUES, GDP GROWTH IN 1986 REPORTED

Barrow on Debt Burden

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 25 Apr 87 p 1

[Text]

Barbados now has a debt repayment burden of over \$200 million over the next four years.

Prime Minister Errol Barrow told the closing ceremony of a meeting at Sam Lords Castle yesterday that such a debt repayment burden meant that before the country paid a single salary or supplied a school, it had a commitment to service the debt.

The Prime Minister spoke on a wide range of issues including the tax concessions Government granted last July, the performance of the economy, state enterprises, and public finance.

The issues raised by Mr. Barrow coincided with the theme of the conference which dealt with self reliant growth and increased public sector savings. It was attended by 22 representatives from Caribbean countries and regional and international organisations.

**National debt**

In dealing with the national debt, Mr. Barrow said that when his party left office in 1976, the total national debt was \$251 million. The total external debt, he said, was \$51 million, and the foreign reserves were in excess of that amount.

He said that if he had the authority as Minister of Finance to write cheques, he could have written one and cleared off the foreign component of the debt.

Mr. Barrow told the ceremony that on his return to office after nine short years, the total national debt stood at \$1 600 million with the foreign component being \$732 million.

Stating that he was not trying to

criticise anyone but instead was stating the facts, the Prime Minister suggested that small countries ought to resist the blandishment of the overseas bankers.

"They must also remember that some international agencies, if they think you have a good credit rating, sometimes lean over backwards towards you to borrow money," he said.

The Prime Minister also told the meeting that the tax concessions his government granted last July had increased the disposable incomes of Barbadians.

**Upkeep of revenues**

He said that the upkeep of Government revenues through high levels of taxation in a stagnant economy was unsuitable. He also noted that the high levels of taxation were a disincentive to work and to save. He said the point had been reached when workers were reluctant to work overtime because of the additional taxes.

Mr. Barrow said that the July 1986 measures were recognised as having some impact on the economy, and he pointed out that the out-turn of the economy last year reinforced his belief that the Government's new arrangements had placed the country on a path of social and economic reconstruction.

"The new arrangements have reduced the tax burden without reducing the level of revenue needed in the country," he said, adding that it had been achieved in a way which had accelerated the rate of growth of the economy.

## Trade Figures

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 12 May 87 p 1

[Article by Cheiston Lovell]

[Text]

BARBADIANS last year bought \$40.5 million less of foreign items than in 1985.

This resulted in the country's import bill being 3.3 per cent lower over the same period, despite the country's visible trade deficit rising by over \$100 million.

The deficit rose to \$628.8 million last year over \$513.8 in 1985, as the country spent a whopping \$1.1 billion bringing in goods. It sold only \$552.3 million in goods to its world trading partners.

Chiefly responsible for the deficit was a 22 per cent fall off in total exports, a loss of \$155.5 million. Sales to Puerto Rico, a major buyer visited by local trade missions as recently as last year, fell off by \$119.4 million or 50.2 per cent, the largest decline among all

buyers.

The domestic exports component fell by \$75.9 million or 15.3 per cent over the same period.

The largest single slice of the country's foreign exchange went towards the importation of machinery and transport equipment, which accounted for \$428.5 million or 36.3 per cent of the 1986 import purchasing. In 1985 some \$387.4 million, 31.7 per cent of import spending, went towards this category of purchase.

The export of machinery also contributed significantly to Barbados' export earnings, bringing \$266.1 million into the country, 48.2 per cent of total exports. This compared with \$321.7 million or 45.4 per cent for 1985.

The main source of imports was the United States, as traditional, although Barbados bought some \$30 million less in goods from that source.

## CDB Report on 1986

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 May 87 p 8

[Text]

Bridgetown, May 8, CANA:

ECONOMIC activity in Barbados expanded in all major sectors in 1986, leading to growth of five per cent in real Gross Domestic Product, according to the annual report of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

Unemployment was lower than in 1985 and inflation was almost non-existent. However, the merchandise trade deficit increased substantially, and data for April to October 1986 indicate considerable weakening in central government finances.

The tourism industry bettered its 1985 performance. The appreciation of European currencies against the U.S. dollar since the second quarter of 1985, and doubts about the safety of travel to Europe increased the demand for Caribbean

vacations.

Arrivals of cruise ship visitors to Barbados increased by 29.5 per cent during 1986, up from 13.2 per cent in 1985. United States and United Kingdom accounted for almost all the growth in arrivals of stopover visitors to Barbados which increased by three per cent, compared with a decline of two per cent during the earlier period.

Arrivals of stopover visitors in most of the other Caribbean Islands grew much faster than they did in Barbados for the second successive year.

Sugar output rose by 10.7 per cent to 111,000 tonnes in 1985-86, the highest level since 1980.

Despite the bumper harvest and an increase in the dollar value of the European Economic Community (EEC) price for sugar, the industry's

foreign exchange earnings fell by 0.5 million dollars in 1986.

A lower U.S quota and forward shipments of sugar from the 1985 crop to satisfy part of the 1985/86 quota, led to reduced quota sales in 1986.

Consequently, a larger proportion of the output had to be sold on the world market at prices much lower than those obtaining in the guaranteed markets.

The 41 per cent cut in the U.S quota announced in late 1986 will not only reduce the country's foreign exchange earnings but also worsen the industry's already depressed financial situation, the CDB said.

External events continued to exert generally contractionary pressures on industrial production. Foundering CARICOM economies, the devaluation of the Trinidad and Tobago dollar and more widespread use of import restrictions, particularly in some OECS countries, depressed the demand for exports from Barbados.

Most severely hit was the clothing industry, the output of which fell by 19.6 per cent during 1986. Consumers benefited from the drop in crude oil prices and the Barbados National Oil Company was forced to cut production for the first time since 1981.

The electronics industry recovered from the slump of the first nine months of 1985, but increasing Japanese competition in the U.S market and slackening demand for home computers generated a price fall that reduced export earnings. In rationalising its worldwide operations, a major electronics firm (INTEL) closed its Barbados plant late in the year.

In the face of these difficulties, both the old government and the new one assuming power in May, implemented a number of monetary and fiscal measures to stimulate domestic demand, encourage investment and cut production costs in the manufacturing and tourism sectors.

The fall in mortgage rates and the Central Bank's removal in 1985 of the ceiling on commercial bank mortgage lending, together with the substantial increase in capital

spending the old government had initiated, boosted the construction and construction-related sectors in 1986.

Cuts in personal income taxes and in fuel and electricity prices, along with other favourable developments in the economy, resulted in substantial increases in real personal disposable incomes.

The consequent increase in domestic demand was largely responsible for the emergence of the industrial sectors from the 1985 industrial recession. Overall, industrial output grew by 5.3 per cent in 1986.

The unemployment rate fell from an average of 18.7 per cent in 1985 to 17.7 per cent for 1986. However, the rate rose sharply to 19.1 per cent in the third quarter, only slightly below the 1985 third quarter peak of 19.8 per cent.

This increase, despite positive growth in the economy, was due to the closure of manufacturing enterprises and a slowdown in construction activity during the second half of the year.

As in 1985, the banking system remained highly liquid in 1986. The ratio of liquid assets to deposits stood at 35 per cent and holdings of reserves and government securities far exceeded the levels stipulated by the Central Bank.

Lending to the agriculture, tourism and manufacturing sectors declined for the second year in succession, notwithstanding the fall in the bank's average lending rate.

Persisting low international inflation rates and the fall in fuel prices sustained the downward slide in domestic retail prices that started in 1981. The retail price index rose by 1.3 per cent in 1986, compared with an increase of 3.9 per cent a year earlier.

The effects of international trading difficulties and expansionary economic policies also manifested themselves in a 22.4 per cent widening of the merchandise trade deficit in 1986.

The value of total exports fell by 22 per cent, more than twice the decline in 1985, and imports fell by 3.3 per cent, compared with an 8.6 per cent decline in 1985. The contraction in regional trade was re-

flected in a 28.8 per cent decline in imports from other CARICOM countries.

The fiscal situation deteriorated drastically in the first seven months of 1986/87. The tax cuts, which were instituted in August, reduced revenues while growth in recurrent expenditure did not slow significantly.

A current deficit of 11.3 million dollars was recorded, compared with the small surplus achieved during the corresponding period of the 1985/86 fiscal year.

Capital expenditures rose by 46 per cent and the overall deficit of 59.1 million dollars for the period April to October 1986, was twice that for the corresponding period April to October 1985 and only slightly below the full 1985/86 fiscal year's deficit of 62.8 million dollars.

The Government continued to rely more heavily on the domestic financial system than on foreign borrowing to finance the deficit. Domestic debt accounted for 59.8 per cent of the national debt, which stood at 613.8 million dollars at the end of October 1986, or 12.7 per cent higher than it was at the end of 1985.

The pace of economic activity is expected to slow down in 1987. A decline in government capital spending is forecast and the construction boom will therefore taper off as current projects come to an end.

As a result of this, together with the planned cut in sugar output to 90,000 tonnes, the burden of economic growth and employment generation will fall on the tourism and manufacturing sectors.

Bookings for the 1986/87 winter season indicate that tourist arrivals in Barbados should at least retain their 1986 levels, and the change of government in Trinidad and Tobago promises hope for a revival of trade in manufactured goods with that country.

However, the performance of these two sectors will depend mainly on how effective they are in translating the government policy benefits received in 1986 into better and cheaper products, and into a more vigorous export push into both traditional and non-traditional markets, the CDB report said.

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CSO: 3298/226

## MINISTER OF TRADE URGES INVESTMENT-TARGET SHIFTS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 25 Apr 87 p 1

### [Text]

Minister of Trade and Commerce Mr. Evelyn Greaves has urged the regional private sector to put some of its capital resources to productive use by equity investment in industry and agriculture.

He noted that from its inception, the regional distributive sector had been participating almost exclusively in the narrow and limited role of buying and selling of products and he submitted that it was time the sector widened the scope of its operations.

Mr. Greaves was guest speaker yesterday at a luncheon hosted by the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce on the occasion of its 32nd annual general meeting where Mr. Hollis Bristol of St. Lucia was elected as the new CAIC president.

### Major problems

The Minister noted that one of the major problems facing contemporary regional industry was the under-capitalisation of enterprises, many of which had a high debt to equity ratio.

"This under-capitalisation places enormous pressures on the financial management of enterprises and threatens the viability of industrial concerns which are otherwise economically feasible," he said.

He said that the distributive sector had built up considerable financial capital resources and a

substantial portion of those resources were lying idle while contemporary regional industry and agriculture were in dire straits for equity participation.

He said that such equity participation by the distributive sector would assist in meeting capital requirements of industry and agriculture from regional resources, would proportionately diminish the level of dependence on foreign investment and would reduce the magnitude of foreign exchange leakage through the repatriation of profits and dividends.

He assured the distributive sector that there was also tremendous potential for satisfactory return on their investment, noting: "The integration process has propelled the development and expansion of these two inter-related areas of industry and agriculture, enabling them to record revolutionary advances, even in a situation of scarce equity investment.

Mr. Greaves told the regional businessmen that he recognised that from a strictly financial and business perspective, the argument could be advanced that the distributive sector was doing what it knew best, what has been successful and what has paid handsome dividends in the past.

But he submitted that these were changing times and advised that unless the sector was prepared to change, then it would be left in the wake of change. "Increasingly many of our people are striving to

create and make the things we need for our daily existence and our Governments are committed to a policy aimed at giving impetus to this regional creativity," he said.

He urged the support of the distributive sector for such regionally produced goods through purchase, adequate exposure and promotion.

### Marked preference

He said that through the years, the distributive sector had demonstrated a marked preference to promote and market extra-regional products over regional goods and a number of importers had explained that behaviour in terms of satisfying consumer taste and habits and also in terms of offering a more competitively priced and quality product.

But Mr. Greaves argued that in many areas, regional manufacturers were producing goods of comparable quality and price which the consuming public required and therefore the manufacturers deserved more support from the distributive sector.

He said he was convinced that so long as the distributive sector took the decision to participate in equity investment in regional industries, it would result in a common vested interest in persuading the consumer to purchase regional products and the mobilisation of pooled resources, both financial and technological to that end.

BARBADOS

BRIEFS

DEATH OF PRC ENVOY--China's Ambassador to Barbados, Gu Zhifang, died yesterday after a short illness. The 59-year-old diplomat took up office here in August last year. Reports state that he was hospitalised on Tuesday after suffering a fall. Zhifang has been involved in the diplomatic service for more than 30 years. In addition to serving at home as head of a government division in charge of Central and Latin America, the ambassador had held diplomatic posts in Egypt, Uganda, Guyana, Yemen and Fiji. Ambassador Zhifang had been engaged in talks with various business houses in Barbados. Last November he visited the offices of the Nation Publishing Company where he held talks with Managing Director, Harold Hoyte. More recently he and his wife paid a courtesy call to Banks Barbados Breweries to familiarise themselves with the functioning of the industry here. There has been no confirmation yet from the Chinese Embassy on when the ambassador will be buried. As a mark of respect, the Barbados flag will be flown at half-staff on all Government buildings, including schools, today. The flag will be flown half-staff at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for three days. [Text] [Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 8-9 May 87 p 40] /9274

CSO: 3298/226

CHILE

CHILEAN LEFTISTS CALL FOR PINOCHET 'DEPARTURE'

PA231614 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] The Chilean People's Democratic Movement [MDP], has proposed General Pinochet's departure and the installation of a provisional government as necessary measures to facilitate a real transition to national reconciliation and democracy.

The MDP, a leftist coalition, made the proposal in a document addressed to the Chilean Episcopal Conference, which is currently meeting to analyze possible ways to achieve national reconciliation. In its message to the bishops, the MDP stressed that there will be no democracy in Chile, and no movement toward it if attempts to band and exclude the popular movement--including its social and political expressions--as well as leftist ideas continue.

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CSO: 3348/358

CHILE

NUNEZ' SOCIALISTS REFUSE TO JOIN COALITION

PY100255 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0418 GMT 9 Jun 87

[Text] Santiago, 8 Jun (EFE)--Ricardo Nunez' Socialist Party today rejected the idea of joining the coalition of leftist parties and agreed to ask Cardinal Raul Silva Henriquez to act as mediator between the opposition and the military government of General Augusto Pinochet.

At the end of its seventh national plenum, the socialists of the central-left rejected the possibility of joining the leftist front which is being organized by the Popular Democratic Movement (MDP), and which is made up of communists, "orthodox" socialists, and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR).

Nunez' socialists feel that the differences with the Marxist left on essential matters, such as the use of violent means to reach power and the need to intensify the campaign for free elections makes the idea of a coalition impossible.

Moreover, they agreed to publicly ask Cardinal Silva Henriquez to mediate "to achieve a peaceful solution for the country."

Nunez' socialists also addressed a letter to the Chilean Christian Democratic Party urging it to end the policy of exclusions it is implementing within the movement for free elections.

The idea is that all those who are for free elections must join the campaign, including the communists.

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CSO: 3348/358

CHILE

LAGOS, ALMEYDA DISCUSS SOCIALIST UNITY

PY100158 Santiago FORTIN MAPOCHO in Spanish 3 Jun 87 p 3

[Text] Clodomiro Almeyda and Ricardo Lagos met on 1 June in Chile Chico and proposed the creation of a Socialist Forum to serve as a meeting place to the various historic socialist tendencies.

According to a joint communique signed by the two leaders, they emphasized that the solution to the Chilean crisis will only be achieved through free elections.

The joint communique indicates that "important areas of agreements" have been found.

The communique says that "in the face of the national situation and the regime's intention to continue in power it is necessary that socialism state through a single voice the need for a political solution to the Chilean crisis." [as printed]

The communique adds that "this goal will be achieved through free elections which must bring about the full recovery of the people's sovereignty. This struggle must include the economic and social objectives in order to defend the interests of the national majorities."

The declaration goes on to say that the struggle for free elections must reject the registration of political parties and emphasize the ineffectiveness of the current institutional structure which cannot lead to democracy."

Regarding the need for unity of the socialist groups, Lagos and Almeyda stated that this is necessary to have a strong left and a solid democracy."

The communique says that "an agreement was reached to seek the creation of a Socialist Forum to be used as a channel for political proposals, socialist programs and other initiatives to achieve the gradual unity of the socialists."

The communique concludes by saying that this idea can materialize through the current liaison commissions between the different socialist organizations.

Regarding the meeting, Lagos emphasized to FORTIN MAPOCHO its importance because of the many points of agreement on the issues discussed.

Lagos pointed out that the Socialist Forum is the "seed that will unite socialism" and that if implemented this initiative would be positive for the country.

He added that the issue on which they disagree was the issue about the Leftist Front.

Lagos said: "For Almeyda, the Leftist Front is a basic requirement for concrete steps toward socialist unity. For us, the socialist unity must be debated among socialists. Once unity is achieved, we will be able to have a clearer picture about the front."

Lagos said: "We believe that in any discussions on the creation of a front of this nature it is essential to have a clear idea of the strategy to be implemented, that the parties which make up the front have a common view on the free elections and electoral registrations, and that there be a national understanding of how to face the dictatorship and the post Pinochet period."

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CHILE

BALTRA'S DAUGHTER ON MOTHER'S INTERNAL EXILE

PA231807 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 May 87

[Interview with Romanina Morales Baltra, "daughter of former Chilean parliament member Mireya Baltra," by Neria Carmona; in Cuba; date not given--recorded]

[Text] [Carmona] Romanina Morales is a Chilean youth who is studying in Cuba. She is the daughter of communist member of parliament Mireya Baltra, whom the Chilean regime banished to the remote Chilean city of Puerto Aisen.

Romanina, why did your mother decide to go to Chile?

[Morales] Well, first because of the right to [words indistinct] in her country. This is a right all Chileans should have, but Pinochet and his government deny us this right. Second, my mother was never satisfied with what she did in exile. She wanted to do something very valuable and big, but she always wanted to struggle alongside her people and inside her country.

[Carmona] Your mother attempted to enter Chile on other occasions. Then [she attempted to enter through] (Lazarito).

[Morales] Yes, Mireya, my mother tried to enter with a group of friends in 1984. When they crossed the border they were beaten by the police and were not allowed to cross the border. They had to turn back. They tried to enter again in September 1986, when they arrived at the airport and were sent back to Buenos Aires.

[Carmona] Do you know what your mother's current situation is?

[Morales] Yes, I do. My mother is currently in Puerto Aisen, where she has been banished. The people are in solidarity with her there; she receives international assistance and has the solidarity of all the Chileans. When I spoke with my mother her spirits were very high because she can see the Capitan mountains, where she is from. This was her most heartfelt wish. Even though she is banished, thousands and thousands of kilometers away, in a barren land, she feels united with her people.

[Carmona] What significance does it have for you that your mother went to Chile?

[Morales] This should not only have meaning for me, but for all Chilean Communists who feel they are true revolutionaries; for them this should stand as an example from which we can draw strength to return to our country, where we are so needed.

[Carmona] What message would you send your mother if she were listening?

[Morales] First, I would tell her that I have confidence in her and in the Chilean people and that I hope that we will be able to admire the Andes together soon. We will embrace there, at the foot of Mount San Cristobal.

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CHILE

CUBA-BASED CHILEAN ON BALTRA, CAMPUSANO EXILES

PA251650 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 May 87

[Interview with Mario Fernandez, member of the Chilean Committee in Cuba,  
by Carmen Esquivel; date, place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Esquivel] What is the situation of comrades Mireya Baltra and  
Julietta Campusano, whom the Pinochet regime sent to inhospitable regions?

[Fernandez] As you know, Baltra is in Puerto Aisen. According to the latest news from her, she is in a delicate state of health. She has bronchitis, which is getting worse because of the inhospitable conditions of the place where she is, a place that is very distant from urban centers, particularly from Santiago. Puerto Aisen has a rainy and cold climate. Obviously, these are adverse conditions for Mireya's health.

Julietta, former senator of the Communist Party of Chile [PCCH], was initially sent to Punta Gorda in northern Chile, and then was transferred to the Maniuna region.

[Esquivel] Why did the regime transfer Campusano from Punta Gorda to Maniuna?

[Fernandez] I think the reason was a mistake made by the dictatorship. Campusano was a known PCCH leader. She was a senator who was very well known in that area, which is a mining area. The PCCH had had a great historical influence in that area. The specific report that we have received is that a group of miners was preparing to stage a march on the road that leads from Chuquicamata and Calama to the region where Campusano was based.

Therefore, Campusano's presence at Punta Gorda led to political problems for the dictatorship. She became an element that disrupted a sector where the PCCH comrades have had important influence.

As I already mentioned, both comrades are at places that are very distant from Santiago. They are at inhospitable places with much communication difficulties. This is especially so in Campusano's case. It is said that the closest telephone is located approximately 80 km from where she is.

[Esquivel] In addition to the comrades' decision to live in their country, what significance do you give to this action they carried out recently while there is a dictatorship in power?

[Fernandez] I think it has several meanings, one of the most important of which is that their return is an action that shows courage and moral character. They decided to face repression at any price. I think that this is the first lesson we can learn. Second, I think that their action magnifies the widespread rejection of several pseudolaws issued by the dictatorship that claims the right to decide which Chileans can live in their fatherland or cannot. Third, this marks a path that can be followed and must be followed by other Chileans who have been denied the essential right of living in the land where they were born, seeing their loved ones again, and [words indistinct] that which is theirs: Chile.

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CHILE

CAMPUSANO ON CURRENT STATUS, ACTIVITY OF PCCH

PY100319 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 1 Jun 87 p C2

[Interview with former senator Julieta Campusano Chavez by special correspondent Sergio Montivero Bruna from Camina]

[Excerpts] Camina--Delegations from Arica, Iquique, and Santiago have arrived in Camina, a town located 210 km northeast of Iquique, to celebrate the birthday of former communist senator Julieta Campusano Chavez.

EL MERCURIO was the only newspaper to send a correspondent to Camina, a town located in the Andean foothills and perhaps one of the most progressive towns in the area. EL MERCURIO interviewed the former communist leader at a boarding house owned by Primitiva Mollo Quispe and located on O'Higgins Street.

Politics

[Montivero] What is your opinion about the 1989 plebiscite?

[Campusano] This is a de facto government which does not give any guarantees. Everything will be a hoax to perpetuate itself in power. What strongly draws my attention is the fact that after 14 years of dictatorship there still are politicians--and there are many of them--who believe that there is a deadline for the current regime.

[Montivero] Did you read the comments recently made by General Matthei?

[Campusano] We have always heard apt remarks from Gen Matthei. However, he always recants and, thus, he has lost credibility.

[Montivero] Your PCCH [Communist Party of Chile] Comrade Luis Guastavino has stated that the PCCH executive board members are living in Chile and that none of them is abroad.

[Campusano] That is correct. We have always said it. The PCCH is in Chile and is working hard.

[Montivero] When you express a certain support for the FPMR [Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front], do you mean that the PCCH approves of this armed group?

[Campusano] When I express support, I mean that the FPMR represents a young, current generation. They are fighters as is all youth. They represent the most sublime aspect of life because they struggle for what they believe is just. Many youths choose drugs, or the comfort offered by the regime. Instead, they have chosen the most difficult way. I have not seen them acting because I have not been in Chile. However, they have shown respect for the people. In no way have they come to compete. They are placing themselves at the disposal of the people. They have said this themselves. They are not a political party.

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CSO: 3348/357

CHILE

FPMR REPRESENTATIVE TORRES INTERVIEWED IN CUBA

FL111604 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1151 GMT 11 Jun 87

[Interview with Roberto Torres, representative of Chile's Manuel Rodriguez Revolutionary Patriotic Front, by Tele-Rebelde reporter Greta Aguilu; date, specific place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Aguilu] During a stopover in our country, we talked with Roberto Torres, representative abroad of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front. Torres, what are the front's prospects for struggle in the country's present situation?

[Torres, with scarf covering head and lower part of face] The opposition's prospects for struggle in Chile also take into account the particular development prospects of our organization. The prospects for struggle of the Patriotic Front are marked by the objective need to defeat the dictatorship. This also implies the need to continue to engage in the same forms of struggle, with the same offensive and the same capacity that we managed to achieve last year, at the time of the attempt, the execution operation against the dictator, of September 1986.

[Aguilu] You recently presented a document obtained from Chile's high military command. Could you tell us something about that?

[Torres] Of course. This document that I have in my hands is a secret document that intelligence units of the Patriotic Front rescued from the offices of the Chilean army's general staff on the eve of the Pope's visit to Chile in April. The purpose in showing this document to the public is to once again demonstrate that repression in Chile is institutionalized, that repression in Chile is carried out by the armed forces through the repressive services of Pinochet's secret police led by the dictator himself.

This document outlines the organic way of carrying out the counterinsurgency war, the war against the people. It also sets out the need to initiate and carry out actions to discredit both the organizations that struggle in political opposition and the organizations that struggle in the area of political and military opposition such as ours. It even plans vandalism, assassinations, provocations against the armed forces themselves in order to reverse the

situation that exists today. This situation is characterized up to this day by the great prestige in Chile of the Front in particular, and of the opposition popular forces in general.

We could say that this document is the most concrete statement and, therefore, the most concrete demonstration of how repression in Chile is an institutionalized element within the regime. The regime needs it to survive and this repression and this terrorism will not stop with a solution unless the prospect of ending the dictatorship is part of the solution.

[Aguilu] Torres, how do you characterize the current situation in Chile from the point of view of the regime and the necessary unity of the opposition forces?

[Torres] In the first place, the situation in Chile is a difficult one. We believe that since 1986--especially the latter half of 1986--to date, the situation has changed. Events as important as the 7 September action against the dictator by the Patriotic Front have taken place. There have been others that have made the general political situation change. New prospects have opened up for the confrontation and defeat of the dictatorship. We believe that imperialism, the leading actor on the Chilean political scene, has visualized the objective need to be able to achieve a short-term solution that will meet its need to stay in power, and [words indistinct] sectors that fundamentally belong to the center right and the right in Chile with the objective of repeating some kind of solution as has occurred in other countries. This does not mean that these democratic solutions that have taken place in other countries are not a contribution to the democratic struggle; they are. But we believe that the conditions in Chile make the situation different, and therefore a solution of that type, given the level of repression, the institutionalization of the regime, in general terms should be different.

We can look at this from the point of view of the popular forces. The popular forces in Chile do exist and have a [word indistinct] capacity. They are characterized basically by parties and organizations which in some form during 14 years have stopped the dictatorship from institutionalizing its ideology or imposing a plan that would prevent the development of the opposition forces. On the contrary. All these opposition forces, which have been enriched by the action of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front in particular--this action culminated in 1986 with the execution operation--shows that the conditions are there, that the capacity is there, but that more drive, more determination is still needed to be able to continue to intensify all forms of struggle and build the necessary channels to confront the dictator. The people's military strength, the people's capacity for a military response is necessary, because, after all we are living in a militarized society.

So, we see the prospects in terms of the need today to generate a patriotic and national unity that fundamentally depends on understanding and the need to understand each other, especially the forces that represent the people's movement.

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CSO: 3348/357

CHILE

TWO PERSONS INDICTED IN ARMS SMUGGLING CASE

PY091910 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Jun 87 p C-7

[Excerpt] Military Prosecutor Fernando Torres Silva yesterday reported that two detainees have been indicted on charges of allegedly violating the law on control of arms and explosives, in connection with the smuggling of arms into Chile.

The detainees were identified as Abelardo Coss Rojas and Juan de Diso [as published] Pizarro. A third detainee, a woman, was released because of lack of evidence against her.

The prosecutor recalled that the three persons were arrested in the northern city of Copiapo, during an investigation in which Amable Plaza Plaza was also arrested.

The indictment is justified on grounds of the alleged violation of Articles 3 and 8 of the Law on Control of Arms and Explosives.

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CSO: 3348/359

CHILE

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS ARREST OF JOURNALISTS

PY112002 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0433 GMT 11 Jun 87

[Text] Santiago, 11 Jun (EFE)--By a 3-to-2 vote, the Santiago Supreme Court has upheld the arrest of FORTIN MAPOCHO director Felipe Pozo and of journalist Gilberto Palacios, who works for the same newspaper. The arrest was ordered by a military prosecutor.

Pozo and Palacios were brought to military court in the wake of a report published by the newspaper over 1 year ago. The report criticized compulsory military service.

Military Prosecutor Enrique Olivares ordered the arrest and prosecution of both journalists on 29 May. The decision was appealed by the journalists' lawyers.

With the favorable vote of its three military members, and with the negative vote of its two civilian members, the court last night upheld Olivares' decision.

Pozos and Palacios have been held at the Santiago prison since the end of May.

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CHILE

CARABINERO DIRECTOR VISITS FRG MATERIEL SUPPLIERS

PY091615 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 2 Jun 87 p 1

[Excerpt] Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange Oelckers is visiting German enterprises that supply logistic support material to the Carabineros force and is studying the possibility of purchasing additional material.

Stange is visiting the Messeschmitt-Bolkow-Blohm enterprise that has sold to Chile B-105 helicopters which are to be used by the Air Patrol for rescue operations.

It has been disclosed that in order to be able to offer the community a better rescue service, Carabineros need more of the same type of helicopters, therefore, negotiations have been started to purchase more of them from the Messerschmitt-Bolkow-Blohm enterprise.

General Rodolfo Stange is paying an institutional as well as private visit to the FRG accompanied by his wife, Liliana Toro de Stange. It is believed that Stange will remain in the FRG approximately 20 days.

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CSO: 3348/359

ECUADOR

FINANCIAL EXPERTS VIEW JOINT NEGOTIATION OF FOREIGN DEBT

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 May 87 p A-2

[Text] Yesterday, on Channel 8's "Encounter" Program, three financial experts analyzed the proposal formulated by former presidents and other Latin American personalities, which calls for the creation of a joint mechanism for negotiating the foreign debt to warn creditors that they must take Latin America's development needs into account.

The proposal argues that, after 5 years of severe adjustment processes, which have caused indisputable social repercussions, the problem still remains intact. Latin America has exported capital in amounts exceeding \$130 billion, and it has acquired new debts in the amount of \$100 billion. And in the meantime, the Latin American nations are still suffering from inflation, unemployment, recession, and social tension.

During the program this proposal was analyzed by the following persons: economist Abelardo Pachano, former manager of the Central Bank of Ecuador and an Ecuadorean foreign debt negotiator in 1982-1983; economist Francisco Swett Morales, former minister of finance and Ecuadorean foreign debt negotiator in 1984-1985; and attorney Leon Roldos Aguilera, former vice president of Ecuador, who also served as president of the Monetary Board during the 1979-1980 period.

The moderator for the program was Alfonso Espinosa de Los Monteros, national news director of Ecuavisa.

Abelardo Pachano

During the past 5 years, said Pachano, Latin America has assumed its share of the sacrifice, while its creditors and the industrialized nations have only given us a promise that once the growth of the industrialized countries has been ensured, the problem of the foreign debt would be resolved. They consider this problem a lack of financial liquidity, but there is an unjust worldwide economic and financial organization which is becoming unworkable.

Pachano said that multilateralism in the negotiations has potential which has not yet been tapped in this area, and that at this time Latin America does

have the moral force to propose a joint platform with its general points in agreement, shared by all the nations which are now subjected to a virtual state of recession.

He recalled the points proposed at the Quito conference, which requested a revision of the terms of trade between the industrialized nations and the developing countries, the elimination of protectionism and the application of interest rates equivalent to the rates in effect when the debt was contracted. He also said that the role of financial development institutions should be changed so that they may replace private banks in granting credits at better financial terms.

He cited the statement by the Catholic Church that the problem of the foreign debt is an ethical problem which goes beyond economic and political conditions, because it affects the future of the developing nations and the right of peoples to improve their living conditions and not to become submerged in impoverishment.

He added that the preparation of a joint platform is perfectly feasible, and that some practical proposals have already emerged. As an example, he mentioned the Cartagena meeting at which the American nations unanimously proposed that refinancing be based on the LIBOR [London Inter-Bank Offered Rate] and not on the prime rate.

#### Francisco Swett

The former minister of finance, Francisco Swett, stated that Latin America has actually made an effort that goes beyond what its peoples and governments can accept. He said that this massive outflow of capital can not continue, and that on this there is a very clear point of agreement between the positions of different countries.

He said that it is to some extent an ethical viewpoint which forms the basis for a responsible economic policy. Nonetheless, he felt that radical positions such as those proposed in the document of the former presidents are very dangerous for a nation's economic stability. He stated that while there is continental solidarity and a political desire to work to find better solutions for the foreign debt problems, this idea is not very easy to carry out in practice.

Swett said that each country's economic and financial conditions are different. This creates special interests that make it difficult to reach a consensus. As an example, he mentioned the integrationist process of the Andean Pact or ALADI [Latin American Integration Association], in which the best intentions can not be implemented efficiently because of the individual responses which each country puts forward when formulating proposals.

For example, he said that no "a priori" percentage of exports or of the gross domestic product common to all the countries can be set as a ceiling for the nations' payment capacity, because this depends on particular factors such as the liquidity they may have at a given point in time.

There will never be a consensus on fixed percentages, because that is unworkable.

In Swett's opinion, these debts are not paid, they are refinanced. Each country should continue negotiating, seeking the best terms, as Mexico and Ecuador have both done. These terms will vary, depending on market forces, and the trend now is toward more lenient terms, which the Latin American countries have been calling for, in all justice. He mentioned the case of the Japanese banks which have made a determination about the Third World debt: to negotiate the portfolio with penalties that will range between 30, 35, and 40 percent, through an office located in the Cayman Islands. Then the Japanese government will deduct the debt losses from the banks' income tax payments. This proves that terms are being made more flexible and that Latin America can indeed hope to get better payment terms. The Latin American countries must not, he said, stop thinking of more flexible formulas; they should continue the refinancing sessions as the nations' payment capabilities continue to evolve. He cited the example of the English debt, which was paid with a number of refinancing sessions.

He also reported that, as minister of finance, he had shared experiences proving the existence of a multilateralist attitude, in a practical context. He mentioned several countries with which Ecuador had exchanged information which was vital at the time of refinancing.

He also defended the present government's economic policy, stating that previous mistakes--including contracting these debts--had led to this situation. On this topic he did say that governments can not promote debt payment over development, saying that in the case of Ecuador, the policy of promoting exports has tried--and succeeded--not only to earn more foreign currencies, but also to create new jobs in agriculture, fishing, and in other areas where there had been stagnation. The government's monetary policy, he said, has been most appropriate, as its results prove, since the system of mini-devaluations, he claimed, only stimulated strictly financial investments, facilitating borrowing in sucres which were then invested in dollars, which later became more expensive and produced more profits.

He stated that as foreign banks have generally improved their position, a more flexible attitude may now be expected, and so he does not think that the creditors will necessarily form a monolithic front. The proposal under discussion, he said--referring to the document prepared by the former presidents--is a straitjacket that could bring us to even worse situations.

From a strictly financial viewpoint, he said, it might be more useful for the countries to discuss an exchange system in order to ensure that the flow of fresh money will always be greater than or at least equal to what they are exporting as capital.

Leon Roldos

The former vice president said that the foreign debt is being treated as an illness of the Latin American countries, when it is actually barely a fever that reveals the presence of a much more serious infection. He stated that the fever has to be treated; the problem of the foreign debt must be dealt with and confronted, but at the same time, they must reach the inner workings of international economic relations, for that is where the root of the crisis lies.

He argued that a link must be established between the prices of goods produced by the industrialized countries and those goods which the developing countries export, in order to establish a just equilibrium that will help to strengthen the development of the Third World countries and to achieve worldwide political and social stability.

Of course, he said, the governments of the developed nations should eliminate protectionist policies.

In domestic affairs, the debtor countries should focus on development priorities, now more than ever before.

He applauded the proposal of the Latin American personalities to discuss joint strategies for handling the foreign debt negotiations, stating that there are possibilities of establishing a joint platform, even though the particular situation of each country may be different. He said it is not essential to set percentages for debt payments, but that these payments can be pegged to the production and export capacity.

He criticized the present government, because, he said, in Ecuador the poor example of bilateralism was set up as a solution, but events have demonstrated that when the debts are forgiven, the Latin American countries are subjected to a system of unjust commercial exchange. He added that in Ecuador everything has been designed to favor small groups of exporters, without thinking of the nation's general interests, and that the government should alter its position as a regulator of the economy.

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CSO: 3348/329

ECUADOR

OIL EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION INVESTMENT DISCUSSED

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 5 May 87 p A-2

[Text] "CEPE [Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation] plans to invest approximately \$180 million between now and the year 1990 in hydrocarbon exploration and production programs. This will enable us to raise the crude extracted from our areas up to a level of 88,310 barrels per day," announced CEPE's manager, Carlos Romo Leroux, while signing the contract for exploration and exploitation services for bloc 17 of the Amazon Region with the PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation]-ELF Aquitaine-Britoil consortium. The manager discussed CEPE's reprogramming of its exploration and production for the next 4 years.

The work will be done in an area of approximately 1 million hectares located in the northeast, of which 400,000 hectares have already been explored, leaving 600,000 hectares still to be explored.

Romo Leroux said that for its geophysical prospecting, CEPE will do about 2,000 kilometers of seismic lines and will drill between eight to ten exploratory wells, for a total investment cost of \$50 million.

This exploratory program will cover the areas of Bermejo Sur Frontera, Pena Blanca, Yasuni and Coca; the area of Lilian, Minuta Pena, Cocha and Pucuna; the strip between the areas operated by the City and Occidental companies and an extensive area being reevaluated, and the Capiron and Shiripuno fields. For production, there are plans to drill a total of 60 development and pre-production wells until the 1990s. This will complete the production potential of the northeast fields now in production, and it will also define the potential of the new structures discovered, such as Tiguino, Bermejo Norte, Pucuna, Coca and Tapi.

At the same time, production and storage facilities will be installed and artificial surveying programs will be implemented in the Tetete, Libertador, Cuyabeno, Sansahuari and Pichincha fields.

The CEPE manager pointed out that the corporation's production and exploration program will reach an estimated cost of \$180 million by 1990. This program

does not include, he said, the development of areas adjacent to the blocs being explored by foreign companies. It is highly probable that these areas will be productive in the center and southeast of the Amazon basin and possibly in the Manabi basin and offshore area.

He indicated that the blocs under contract to foreign companies separate structures whose development and production will have to be shared with CEPE.

In speaking of reserves in the fields operated directly by the corporation, Romo Leroux reported that the reserves listed in December 1986--540 million barrels--will make it possible to boost the production rate to 88,310 barrels per day.

The new crude volume will be extracted from the following fields: 48,500 barrels from the Libertad field; 11,500 from Cuyabeno; 6,150 from Sansahuari; 9,350 from Tetete-Tapi; 1,300 from Sharapa; 8,960 from Bermejo Sur and 2,560 from Bermejo Norte.

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CSO: 3348/329

ECUADOR

PROPOSAL FOR OIL PRICING SYSTEM REVISION

PA281815 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1656 GMT 28 May 87

[Excerpts] Quito, 28 May (DPA)--Ecuador announced today that it will propose to OPEC that the current oil pricing system be revised to compensate for the drop in oil prices caused by the devaluation of the U.S. dollar. This revision would be effected through the adoption of a "basket of currencies."

"We must try to readjust oil prices in accord with the dollar devaluation," Javier Espinosa, Ecuadoran Energy and Mines minister said, although he admitted that "this measure will not resolve the whole problem."

During the announcement of the stance that Ecuador will take at the upcoming OPEC meeting that will begin on 25 June in Vienna, Minister Espinosa stated that "several countries"--OPEC members--which he did not identify, consider that the current pricing system "is not the most adequate or convenient."

To prevent a drop in prices because of the dollar devaluation, Espinosa mentioned the possibility of adopting a "basket" including strong and weak currencies as a basis for the calculation of international oil prices.

According to the Ecuadorian proposal, the revision of the pricing system would be based on the maintenance of the current production ceiling of 15.5 million barrels per day.

Minster Espinosa also announced his intention to propose that the production quota assigned to Ecuador be revised. Currently, that quota is 300,000 barrels per day. Revision of this would compensate for production lost because of the stoppage in hydrocarbon activities.

Espinosa did not announce the new production quota that Ecuador will request. However, as of December, Ecuador will begin producing 345,000 oil barrels per day. In any case, he said that the new quota would be in effect "as soon as we resume our production."

/12913  
CSO: 3348/353

HOYTE IN GRENADA HAILS 'MOST CORDIAL' RELATIONS

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 10 May 87 pp 1, 13

[Text]

**PRESIDENT Desmond Hoyte has described relations between Guyana and Grenada as excellent.**

"We have the most cordial relationship with the Government of Grenada," he told CANA Wednesday while in the Spice Island to attend the funeral of Audrey Palmer-Hawks, an old family friend who died on May 1 in New York.

The President was met on arrival in Grenada by Governor General Sir Paul Scoon, an old colleague and friend with whom he later lunched. Cde Hoyte invited the Grenadian Governor General to visit Guyana, and he accepted. Sir Paul will visit the country at a mutually convenient time.

The Guyanese President later paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Herbert Blaize and they talked of plans to strengthen trade relations between the two Caricom countries. It was agreed that Trade and Tourism Minister Winston Murray will visit Grenada very shortly to pursue related matters.

Relations between Grenada and Guyana cooled after the 1983 US-led invasion of Grenada which was at the time condemned by the Guyana Government under the late L.F.S. Burn-

ham. The late President refused to recognise the regime which emerged in Grenada in elections held one year after the invasion.

Asked whether or not there was now a shift in policy from that of the late President, Cde. Hoyte said, "I don't think that the former President said he wouldn't recognise the Herbert Blaize Government. He said he wouldn't recognise the Government which took office immediately after the incidents of October 1983, so we are talking about an entirely different situation."

An interim Government set up by Sir Paul Scoon, ruled Grenada for one year after the invasion before the 1984 polls which brought Blaize's Government to power.

Cde. Hoyte said that Guyana is trying to give 'greater substance' to its relationship with Grenada by improving trade and

economic ties.

On the issue of a political union of Caribbean countries, President Hoyte said that while he supports calls for such a union, he does not believe it will be achieved in the foreseeable future. He said he was a confirmed Integrationist but recognised the difficulties inherent in political integration. He said Caricom leaders should always keep the issue of political integration in mind and keep striving towards it.

ACCORDS ON VISAS, DRUGS, COOPERATION SIGNED WITH VENEZUELA

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 10 May 87 p 4

[Text]

Agreements pertaining to the abolition of visa requirements in diplomatic, official and service spheres, the control, prevention and suppression of the illegal consumption of, and trafficking in narcotics, and to the establishment of a mechanism for co-operation between Guyana and Venezuela have been reached.

Guyana's Foreign Minister Cde. Rashleigh Jackson told the National Assembly, Wednesday, that the agreements were signed last March coincident with the visit of President Desmond Hoyte to the neighbouring Republic.

The agreement pertaining to the abolition of visa requirements stipulates that embassy officials of both countries, and persons travelling on official business no longer require visas to remain in the respective countries for periods of their attachment or for no more than one month after which, extensions may be granted upon request of the governments.

The letter to the Guyana Ministry of Foreign Affairs pertaining to the establishment of a mechanism for the co-ordination, con-

sultation and general evaluation of the co-operation between the two countries also set the stage for the setting up of a commission to deal with these areas. The commission will meet alternately in Guyana and Venezuela.

And the agreement pertaining to combating the drug problem will remain in force for a preliminary period of two years, and on expiry, stand automatically extended until one of the parties "renounces it through diplomatic channels".

/9274

CSO: 3298/227

AGRICULTURAL OFFICIAL HEADS MISSION TO CHINA, JAPAN

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Apr 87 pp 4-5

[Text]

SENIOR Minister of Agriculture Dr. Patrick Mc Kenzie left the country last Wednesday as head of a local delegation to the second Guyana-China Joint Commission Meeting scheduled to commence in Beijing, the Chinese capital yesterday.

The Joint Commission meeting will precede a five-day official visit to Japan by the Guyanese and is expected, among other things, to review the joint venture programmes currently in effect.

The three-man Guyana delegation comprising Dr. Patrick Mc Kenzie, Dr. Cecil Rajana and Cde. Clive Roopchand will be joined by Guyana's Ambassador to China Cde. Aftaf Mohamed. They will discuss an agreement for a Chinese loan for Guyana Manufacturing and Industrial Development Agency and Guyana Manufacturers Association and financing for the

rehabilitation of the Bellu Claybrick Factory.

Programmes of possible joint venture technical assistance and co-operation and areas of commercial co-operation are also expected to be worked out, an official of the Department of International Economic Co-operation said.

Possible joint venture co-operation for the nation's fishing and forestry sectors is on the agenda.

Dr. Mc Kenzie said that in the light of the excellent relationship between the two countries, the meeting is expected to consolidate links at the technical assistance and co-operation levels.

Assistance for the Guyana School of Agriculture Duck Farm project, Sanata Textiles Limited and the Bellu Claybrick Factory is the result of previous technical co-operation agreements between the two countries.

The visit to Japan is scheduled to begin on May

5, and will be highlighted by discussions with representatives of the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JIAC) in relation to a Japanese grant-aid programme to Guyana according to Desk Officer of DIEC, Cde. Marcelle Forde.

Cde. Forde disclosed that the programme is expected to aid the fishing and power sectors, and rehabilitation works for a number of rice mills in the country. It will also facilitate the textile industry.

The visit is also expected to pave the way for an agreement involving a grant to rehabilitate the Guyana Electricity Corporation's Garden of Eden Power Station.

Japanese grant-aid programme to Guyana dates back to 1975. The Demerara Fish Port Complex located along the East Bank Demerara was constructed through a Japanese grant-aid programme.

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CSO: 3298/227

ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH DPRK BOOSTED IN PYONGYANG TALKS

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 3 May 87 p 8

[Text] Guyana and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are intent on intensifying economic co-operation with each other.

During the Fourth Session of the Guyana/DPRK Economic Commission in Pyongyang, delegations representing the two countries discussed among other things, a number of new projects and programmes.

Leader of the Guyana delegation Prime Minister Cde Hamilton Green explained that one of the new projects to be undertaken, with Korean assistance, is the construction of a sports stadium and complex in Georgetown. A team of Koreans will be travelling to Guyana later this month in connection with this project.

On completion the stadium will accommodate 40,000 spectators and will have all the modern athletic facilities.

Discussions also centred on the Eclipse Falls Hydroelectric project which, because of budgetary constraints, is not high on Guyana's list of priorities. However, the DPRK is committed to the completion of this project. Fifty tractors currently under construction and specially designed to cope with the soil conditions existing at the project site, are to be shipped to Guyana.

Cde Green also reported that another team of Korean specialists will be coming to Guyana in connection with the exploration of gold.

While in the DPRK the Guyana delegation participated in the activities for the 75th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung.

In addition to Prime Minister Green, the members of the delegation were Guyana's Ambassador to the DPRK Cde Altaf Mohamed; Head of the Department of International Economic Co-operation, Dr Cecil Rajana; and Head of the Special Projects Division within the Office of the Prime Minister, Cde Francis Lawrence.

Prior to travelling to the DPRK the Guyana team met with a number of Soviet officials in Moscow. Among the Soviet officials to meet with Prime Minister Green were Deputy Prime Minister Cde Tolstoy; Deputy Foreign Minister Cde Komplektov;

Deputy Head of the State Commission on Sports Cde Gavrilin; and Deputy Head of the State Commission on Foreign Economic Relations, Cde Koshelov.

Discussions in moscow centred on assistance in the field of sport and physical fitness and on bauxite exploration.

In the area of sport, the Soviet Union has undertaken to offer a number of short-term scholarships to train Guyanese coaches in athletics, boxing and weightlifting.

Assistance has also been offered in the form of sports equipment and the implementation of physical fitness programmes.

/9274  
CSO: 3298/227

PROTOCOL SIGNED ON CONTINUING TRADE TIES WITH GDR

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 May 87 p 1

[Text]

A working protocol for the continuation of trading relations between Guyana and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) was signed yesterday at the Ministry of Trade and Tourism.

The protocol provides for Guyana to export to the GDR, bauxite and non-traditional products such as bottled rum and carambola products, according to a statement issued by the Ministry.

In addition, the GDR will supply to Guyana tractors, for the agricultural sector, spares for rice mills, vehicles, machinery and equipment already acquired from the GDR, as well as pharmaceutical products, X-ray films and newsprint.

The document serves as an interim agreement until the next Guyana-GDR Joint Commission meeting, expected to take place in the last quarter of this year.

At yesterday's ceremony, both Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Tourism, Cde. Patrick Mootoo, and Charge-d' Affaires at the GDR Embassy in Georgetown, Cde Junter Maeser, reiterated their determination to continue

the friendly relationship between the two countries.

They also expressed the

hope that the trade and economic agreement will be to their mutual advantage.

/9274  
CSO: 3298/227

MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION LOOKS TO FOREIGN TRADE TIES

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 May 87 p 4

[Text]

THE Guyana Manufacturers' Association (GMA) is to initiate discussions with a number of countries with a view to accelerating the development of trade and economic ties.

GMA President Brian Gittens cited the United States, Cuba, the Republic of Korea, Canada and Colombia as being among the nations with which the Association hopes to improve business relations.

Mr. Gittens disclosed the GMA's projections in a speech at the 20th anniversary annual luncheon of the Association at the Pegasus Hotel on Thursday.

He said the GMA supports the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) and wants much closer relations with Latin American States.

"But we want trade even more than we want aid," the GMA President stressed.

He said Guyanese manufacturers would feel a lot happier if countries from which they received lines of credit also bought locally-produced commodities, thus boosting the country's industrial growth.

"If you give us lines of

credit," he said in his appeal to those States, "buy our goods as well, or help us get into a third country."

Mr. Gittens also asked Government to review its consumption tax, which he described as 'a total disincentive in some areas,' and to help the business sector establish a central trade centre and a data bank.

And he urged the Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST) to seek membership of the GMA and to intensify its assistance to manufacturers by conducting research that can create and develop greater economic activity in the short and medium term.

Guyana Stores Limited (GSL) and the Guyana National Trading Corporation (GNTC) also featured in Mr. Gittens's speech.

He said both agencies can be of tremendous aid to small manufacturers by importing inputs required to support industrial production and 'fuel the national economy much faster.'

/9274  
CSO: 3298/227

MAY DAY, FOCUS ON WAGE PACT, IMF TIES REPORTED, ASSESSED

Pollydore on Government Role

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 26 Apr 87 pp 1, 2

[Text] The May Day rallies, to put it bluntly, are in the hands of the politicians. They are mere political rallies.

So said a top trade union official speaking to the CATHOLIC STANDARD four years ago, before the 1983 rallies.

The President, he said, and other officials were to speak and once again the rallies were being organised by a leading PNC activist, who happened to be the Minister of Labour and Industrial Development.

The State machinery, he continued, no doubt, would once again be used to mobilise the workers, and the army, the police and school children would also take part.

This year there has been little change. PNC Parliamentarian Agnes Bend-Kirton is the TUC Organising Secretary, and is down to give the welcome address at the Georgetown rally. The Head of State, which is the biggest employer, will speak last, giving what is usually described as the feature address.

Leader of the Opposition, Cheddi Jagan has been invited to speak, but up to the time of writing it is not yet known whether he will accept the invitation.

The army and police, as well as school children will once again take part.

Four years ago, General Secretary Joseph Pollydore had denied that the May Day rally had become a political rally. It was then a national rally, he said, in keeping with the Socialist trend in the society.

The TUC cannot do otherwise, he said, for in a Socialist Society everyone takes part in May Day rallies, and Guyana was at least stepping in that direction.

The General Secretary, when asked last week if he still had the same opinion about the May Day rallies, as he did four years ago, repeated that in Socialist states the Head of State played a big role in the rallies.

He was not sure whether he made speeches or merely took the salute in a march past.

President Hoyte, he added, will not be speaking as Head of State, but as Honorary President of the oldest union.

The choice he saw for the TUC was either to carry on as they have been doing in the past and "tidy up the arrangements", or "do a complete sommersault in our socialist perspective".

He agreed that the list of speakers for the country-wide rallies sent to affiliates appears to be political, because of notable omissions, but the Executive Council had yet to approve this list.

The list had been prepared by the Organising Committee, of which the convenor was Agnes Bend-Kirton.

Asked about a report that the

TUC was prepared to accept a minimum wage of \$25 a day, Mr. Pollydore said the Technical Committee had been given a mandate to try to bring about a settlement and one of the suggestions that was being floated, was a \$25 a day minimum wage.

Asked if this took into account a probable further devaluation, the General Secretary said he had heard rumours that the Guyana dollar would be devalued to \$15 to US\$1 or even \$20 to \$1, but the TUC could not bring this up in negotiations as the TUC was against devaluation.

To take it into account in their discussions would be to act as if they approved it, he said.

#### TUC Picketing Against IMF

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 26 Apr 87 p 4

[Text]

THE TUC at its meeting on April 8 last endorsed the picketing exercise carried out on Mar. 27, 30, 31 and April 1 and 2 in front of the Bank of Guyana, where the IMF were having discussions with State officials...

The Sunday Chronicle of Mar. 29 had quoted several executive members as saying that the pickets had been mounted without the blessing of the Executive Council.

TUC President George Daniels and General Secretary Joseph Pollydore, the report said, had done so on their own behalf, as individual citizens and not in the name of the TUC.

At the meeting of April 8 a heated debate took place, President Daniels insisting he had the right to speak on behalf of the TUC in support of the workers.

He also maintained that the picketing was consistent with the approved policy of the TUC towards the IMF.

The vote to endorse the picketing was barely carried (12 for 10 against), and indicated that some PNC supporters voted against the party.

The picketing stressed the "exacting and unmanageable prescriptions" of the IMF.

#### Hoyte on Debt

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 May 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

PRESIDENT Desmond Hoyte yesterday reiterated Government's position of

honouring the obligations of the country's debt.

It is 'stupidity' to talk about not paying debt, which he pointed out is not a single homogeneous concept. It comprises several types of debt.

Cde. Hoyte was addressing the Workers' Day Rally at the National Park, at which Minority Leader and Honorary President of GAWU, Dr. Cheddi Jagan called for suspension of debt payments, declaring that Government should 'suspend payment to the high and mighty and pay the small man.'

Dr. Jagan added: "Pay the small man, not the IMF. What is needed is political,

ideological vision."

Stressing the complex nature of the debt problem, Cde. Hoyte noted that some of the country's debt is owed to Caricom and other Third World countries. He questioned Guyana saying to other developing countries facing circumstances similar to ours that this country will not honour its obligations to them.

Practical and realistic arrangements are required to facilitate repayment of the debt, Cde. Hoyte said. He noted the work of a delegation which recently went to Trinidad and Tobago to deal with the question of the debt with that sister Caricom State.

Recommendations are to

#### Hoyte on Wage Pact

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 May 87 pp 1, 5

[Text]

THE just-concluded Government-TUC wages package is a "landmark in wages negotiations" in Guyana, President Desmond Hoyte said at yesterday's May Day rally in Georgetown.

Listing some of the other components of the package in addition to the across-the-board pay increase element, Cde Hoyte said the agreement "was not only significant but reasonable."

The Trades Union Congress (TUC) did not get everything it asked for, Cde Hoyte said, adding, however, that "we have to operate within the limits of what is possible." He expressed his belief that workers are aware that real benefits will come "only out of continuing real growth" in the economy and not from the mere multiplication of money.

In his address to the rally, TUC President George Daniels traced developments leading up to the Government-TUC agreement, and

noted that the public sector minimum wage of \$23.75 daily was agreed on with an understanding that there would be no reduction in employment.

He called for even greater interest by workers in what he termed their "bread and butter issues."

Among the aspects of the package highlighted by President Hoyte were:

- the built-in incentive workers will receive in 1988 if there is a real increase in GDP in 1987;

- substantial tax relief and special adjustments in areas where workers are disadvantaged;

- rationalisation of salary structures in Guystac, Guysuco and Guymine, which is calculated to bring substantial improvement in workers' conditions; and

- special attention to those pensioners who retired before the 1977 wages adjustment, who will have their pensions increased to a "more socially acceptable" level.

be submitted by a joint team of officials to the two Governments, and it is the Guyana Government's hope that the proposals will serve as the basis for retiring Guyana's debt in a systematic and satisfactory manner.

Arrangements already exist with Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados for paying Guyana's debt and payments are being made into the respective central banks. The present effort is now to expand those arrangements, the President explained.

"We have to present ourselves as serious people, responsible people, and honourable people," he said.

There is an outstanding proposal, the President also noted, to increase National Insurance Scheme benefits through greater equality in contributions, in effect requiring contributors at the top of the income scale to pay more and those at the bottom to pay less.

He looked forward to urgent attention being given to this matter by the TUC so that workers could benefit as early as possible.

## Jagan Criticism

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 May 87 pp 1, 5

### [Text]

**MINORITY** Leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan yesterday criticised the Government's fiscal policies and reiterated his call for a moratorium on debt payments and for trade union action to forge changes in Government's monetary programmes.

Dr. Jagan spoke at yesterday's May Day rally at the National Park.

Speaking also as Honorary President of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union (GAWU), Dr. Jagan described the \$23.75-a-day minimum wage agreed on last week between the TUC and the Ministry of Finance as a 'pittance wage package,' and attributed Government's inability to pay more to its commitment to

honouring debt payments this year.

He also renewed his criticism of last January's devaluation of the Guyana dollar and cautioned against any agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In his address at the rally, President Desmond Hoyte said that while the question of debt was a complex one, it was 'absolute folly, stupidity and nonsense to talk about not paying debts.'

President Hoyte, pointing out that Guyana's creditors constituted Governments, agencies and organisations in developed and developing nations, said Guyana has an obligation to repay debts 'honorably incurred,' thus presenting itself to the world

as a serious, responsible and honourable nation and 'not as breakers of contracts.'

Dr. Jagan argued that the Government's priority is 'lopsided,' and urged the TUC to fulfil its mandate by fighting 'anti-working class' measures and taking workers to the streets if necessary to demand democratic change and workers' control at all levels.

"Either you act now," he warned, "or face doom."

At the end of Dr. Jagan's address, General Secretary Joseph Pollydore, who had complained about the media, said that the fact that Dr. Jagan's remarks were broadcast live was an example of democracy at work.

## TUC President's Speech

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 May 87 pp 1, 4

### [Text]

**TRADES** Union Congress (TUC) President George Daniels yesterday renewed a personal commitment to justifying confidence in the TUC as the Labour Movement observed Workers' Day.

Addressing the major Workers' Day rally at the National Park, the TUC President referred to his similar expression of commitment in 1985 while addressing a Workers' Day rally at which time he spoke of a division, politically based, within the movement.

Yesterday, however, he noted the significant recurrence of a shared platform, with President Desmond Hoyte and Minority Leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan, addressing the rally on issues of importance to workers.

In his own address, the TUC President focused on the course taken during the recently concluded public sector wages negotiations between Government and the TUC.

He recounted the various proposals originally made to the Government by the TUC, with respect to 1987, and the start of negotiations on December 16 last, leading to a subsequent agreement and eventually renegotiation in the wake of a major devaluation of the Guyana dollar.

Government, he noted, was rigid on renegotiating only the across-the-board element of the wages package, in keeping with the earlier agreement between the two parties.

The TUC, however, had a

number of new proposals, Daniels said, including proposals on income tax allowances, further reduction of the Airline Ticket Tax, and early resumption of the publication of the Consumer Price Index.

The agreement on the \$23.75 daily minimum wage, however, was reached by the parties, Daniels said, with the understanding that there would be no reduction of employment, and there would be efforts by Government to ensure adequate supplies to consumers at stabilised or reduced prices.

The TUC President, in his address, looked forward to resuming shortly discussions with Government in pursuit of improved workers' welfare.

## Pollydore Speech

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 May 87 p 8

### [Text]

TUC General Secretary Joseph Pollydore has again, commended President Desmond Hoyte for evoking a national mood of optimism since assuming office as the country's political leader and said references to the President as "Desmond" indicate the high esteem in which he is held by all Guyanese.

Cde Pollydore, speaking at yesterday's May Day rally at the National Park, also applauded President Hoyte's nationwide visits to discern conditions affecting all levels of national life, noting these events echoed the President's own words that "things are happening and will continue to happen."

"President Hoyte is a

person with whom we can communicate, and that is very important," the TUC General Secretary pointed out.

Cde Pollydore served as chairman of the National Park rally, at which Guyanese workers demonstrated trade union solidarity by turning out in their thousands.

Before inviting President Hoyte to the rostrum, Cde Pollydore lamented the present system of wages and salaries adjustments and requested that the President look into the matter. "(That system) just cannot work and it will not work in the future," he stressed. "It must go through some changes."

He also asked President Hoyte to adopt measures to expedite the process of negotiations between Government and the Trade Union Movement and to ensure that the TUC is "given the fullest possible accommodation in dealing with matters relating to workers."

President Hoyte responded to the TUC General Secretary's requests at the start of his keynote address. He said that change is a fact of life and he hoped that in the months ahead Government will be able to continue very fruitful discussions with the TUC on these and other issues.

## Occasion for Debate

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 May 87 p 4

### [Text]

RALLIES of one kind or another are frequent occurrences in Guyana.

But the TUC May Day rally in Georgetown has never been 'just another rally.' There is a unique quality about it that qualifies it to be easily the most important political event in the year's calendar.

This may seem to be an extravagant statement. What about the state opening of the Supreme Congress of the People?

What about the various party political rallies in support of or against this or that happening?

While it may be true that the May Day rally cannot match them for pomp or splendour, there is still something special that cannot be denied.

It is not the colour and the excitement of the apparently endless parade of workers of all types, ages and classes which precedes the rally; it is not the ingenuity of the placards and slogans carried and chanted by *the marchers*; it is not the stirring gutsy music of the steelbands and the drums and the brass blaring forth traditional trade union songs.

It is all of these things combined and one thing more — which is in fact the truly unique feature about Guyana's May Day rally.

It is the open confrontation which occurs between the President of our Nation, who happens also to be the President-General of the oldest trade union; and the Minority Leader, who happens also to be the Honorary President of the largest and possibly the most militant trade union.

There is no other occasion on which both leaders voice their opinions from the same platform in what is in fact an open debate. It is a debate which could not or does not take place anywhere else — not even in the highest council of the land.

In anticipation of this debate, thousands remain at the National Park and thousands more listen attentively to their radios, listening to the thrust and counter thrust of the two men. Neither of them speaks from prepared texts and there is an immediacy about their arguments that makes this annual encounter worth listening to.

Yesterday's encounter was no one-sided affair. It was an example of the freedom of expression which still exists in Guyana and of which all Guyanese can be proud.

We will endeavour in the columns of this newspaper to keep the spirit of this debate alive and to reproduce, from time to time, the significant arguments that will continue to arise on all sides from time to time.

#### Remarks by Gopaul, Others

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 4 May 87 pp 1, 4

[Text] TUC representative, NAACIE's Nanda K. Gopaul called on the working people of Linden not to pay an extra charge for electricity which is planned to rise in the area from 3 cents to 43 cents per kw hour. He reminded them that nationalisation took place with a pledge that conditions would be "no less favourable" than under the control of the foreign company.

He called on workers to remove union leaders who do not know whether they stand on the side of the workers or on the side of the employers.

Referring to statements that Guymine will return to profitability, he asked how the authorities hoped to achieve this with skilled people leaving and with highly skilled people banned from employment. He called on the President to remove the so-called "Black List" and give victimised workers back their jobs. These calls were loudly cheered.

Mr Gopaul labelled the minimum wage unacceptable.

He told how the PNC had hoped through a majority in the TUC Executive to reprimand the TUC officials for picketing the Bank of Guyana, but failed because some people asserted their right to think. Referring to a poster "Social services at Linden gone to the dogs!", the speaker remarked that even dogs do not survive at Linden.

Acting Chair of the Supervisor's Union, Mr Sampson, in a hard-hitting speech, called on the workers to continue the struggle for a decent wage and a struggle to keep prices down.

The GLU and the GTA representatives took a hard line on the question of prices suited to the minimum wage. They called on the government to see that prices were strictly contained. Not a single speaker expressed support for the minimum wage agreed on by the TUC.

Mr Stephen Lewis, GMWU President, called for unity of the unions so that when problems arose there could be real solidarity among the workers and the unions.

Government representative, Dr Van West Charles, opened by saying that in Guyana workers were free to march whereas this was denied in South Africa. His

speech was subject to much unfavourable interruption from the crowd as he sought to justify the minimum wage. He claimed the government and the TUC were equal partners.

Speakers critical of the wages policy of the government received a warm welcome from the crowd. Many workers did not march, but came together at the rally to listen to certain speakers.

#### Hoyte's Mention of Foreign Blocs

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 May 87 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

WE have tried in our editorial column to carry fair and balanced comments. When it was therefore drawn to our attention that, in listing the countries and projects which are expected to have a positive impact on the economy, the President may have tended to favour one particular set of nations, we decided to check the accuracy of the observation. It was discovered that it was without any foundation. In listing the countries with which Guyana has concluded economic agreements, President Hoyte referred to both capitalist and socialist nations. Specifically with regard to the latter he identified : the conclusion of a \$6m (US) interest free loan from China for the development of small and medium sized industrial enterprises; the involvement of WAICO ( a New Amsterdam company) in the production of \$100,000 (US) in furniture for Cuba; and \$3m (US) order from the German Democratic Republic to be filled by local sawmills. These are recognised socialist States.

What then was the accusation being made? When the matter was given thought, and the penny (to use that proverbial phrase) dropped, it dawned on us that some people considered that President Hoyte mentioned some socialist countries and not others. But this would be asking the President to do what he did not set out to do.

A careful reading of his speech would show that his references were to those projects which would benefit the Guyana economy in the immediate future. If the President wanted, but this was not his purpose on this particular occasion, he could have cited the varied economic agreements Guyana has signed with almost all of the States in the socialist Commonwealth, including and especially the Soviet Union.

It is our view that economic and other relations with socialist States have been mutually beneficial and will continue in the future.

#### More on Jagan Remarks

Georgetown MIRROR in English 10 May 87 p 1

[Text] PPP Leader Cheddi Jagan told workers at the TUC-sponsored May Day rally at the National Park that the recent rise in the daily minimum wage to \$23.75 was "inadequate" and called on the nation's rulers to change their "wage habits."

"What the rulers seem to forget or consciously cast aside is the fact that without you, without your labour input, they will starve. Therefore if they want food, if they want a healthy economy, a health society, they have to change their wage habits. Enough is enough. It is time they take better care of you," he said.

Speaking after TUC President George Daniels and before President Desmond Hoyte, Dr Jagan, in his capacity as Honorary President of the GAWU, called the new wage "chicken feed."

"Some people get more than this in allowances alone," he said showing that real wages between 1977 and 1986 declined 48 per cent. The recent devaluation, he said, will increase the cost of living by 50 percent. He warned that the "worse is yet to come" if the workers "agree to sit and take it."

Dealing with government's continuous insistence on its inability to find the money to meet a bigger wage hike, the PPP leader called on the government to slash debt payments which this year will amount to over US\$100 million.

"Clearly the government's priorities are lopsided. Let us tell the government here and now; follow the example of Brazil and Ecuador, suspend debt payments and use the money for improvement of wages and salaries, old age pensions, social services and restoration of subsidies on essential consumer commodities."

Dr Jagan attacked the 1988 part of the wage package as "even more unfavourable and shameless." The formula offers a 5 percent increase on the 1987 basic plus a 1 percent increase for every percentage increase in the Gross Domestic Product over 2 percent. This he said, is "a pie in the sky." He predicted that "workers will be worse off next year" and that "during the past decade, there was not a single year that you would have benefitted had there existed such a formula" as economic performance has been largely negative.

He also attacked the government's argument on the need to "maintain adequate differential" in the public sector. "Actually, the differential is not maintained, but increased" as those at the top will get a monthly increase of \$590, while those at the bottom will get \$166.

"Clearly, under this government, the poor gets poorer and the rich gets richer. And the condition of the poor becomes even more desperate when the workers have to carry the additional burden of thousands of their dismissed brethren," said the veteran trade unionist and politician.

Dr Jagan linked poor wage levels and failure to introduce indexation as demanded by the TUC to Government's intention of signing an agreement with the International Monetary Fund which will be detrimental to the nation.

"We have already had a dose of the IMF medicine. Did it help to cure our ever ailing economy? Even the IMF report of October 1982 admitted that the situation was worse off in 1981 than in 1978, when the first agreement was signed.... And the ones to suffer most from Government/IMF love-play are the workers."

Dr Jagan commended the TUC President and the General Secretary for their anti-IMF street protest and criticised unionists wanting to discipline the TUC leaders for taking such a justified militant position. He called on workers to "take to the streets" and fight for a democratic labour movement, workers' control and a people's socialist-oriented programme.

"You the workers will have to decide whether you will accept the IMF deal and the government pittance wage package. It is time you take the initiative and let this government do as you wish and not the other way around.... The decisions lie with you!"

Also on May Day Dr Jagan made several demands to ease workers' burdens. These included a repeal of the Labour Amendment Act, reintroduction of subsidies on consumer goods, increased NIS benefits, removal of duties and taxes on imports for agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and fuels and abolition of the Means Test.

### Status of IMF Deal

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 May 87 p 7

[Text]

**Georgetown, May 8, CANA:**

THE government has done little so far to dampen speculation in opposition and labour circles that it is heading for a new deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

President Desmond Hoyte, speaking at a May Day Rally, did not respond to Opposition Leader Dr Cheddi Jagan's forthright statement at the rally that his administration is about to "go down the IMF road."

Hoyte however did describe as "nonsense", Jagan's call for a suspension of payment on the country's foreign debt. He said Guyana had to present itself as a responsible nation, noting that sources of finance once blocked were becoming accessible again.

This was taken by some as a hint of new relations with the World Bank and the IMF, which declared Guyana ineligible for loans two years ago because of debt arrears.

Despite the government's relative silence, World Bank/IMF sources in Washington said in March they were discussing an economic "rescue plan" with the Guyana government.

A joint team visited Georgetown late March/early April but nothing has been heard about the outcome of its discussions, described by Finance Minister Carl Greenidge as routine.

Executives of the Trades Union Congress led token demonstrations against the visit because they fear another devaluation of the local currency. Veteran TUC general sec-

retary Joseph Pollydore recently told CANA that the grouping could "not entertain any talk about a possible second devaluation of the Guyana dollar since we are still trying to assess the impact of the first devaluation this year when our dollar was reduced to just US ten cents."

He said that any such move would "diminish" the small gains recently made for the workers by the TUC-Government agreement on a new daily minimum wage of G\$23.75 dollars, an increase of about seven dollars.

"In the circumstances, I would prefer to be optimistic and hope that we can promote the conditions to generate greater productivity for exports so that we can earn the foreign exchange we desperately need to resolve some of our current difficulties."

A new agreement with the IMF would be one of the more significant developments in the country since the death in August 1985 of the country's first executive President, Forbes Burnham.

Burnham, founder of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC), was firmly opposed to an IMF solution to the foreign exchange-starved Guyana economy.

But Hoyte has initiated a number of moves that significantly impact on the country's external and domestic policies without affecting the party's firm grip on the nation's political life. The 56-year-old Hoyte has been progressively distancing himself from the many of the policies and political style of his predecessor.

In the field of foreign affairs Hoyte's most significant initiatives include improving relations with the United States — severely strained up to the time of Burnham's death; creating a new and warm relationship between Guyana and its border neighbour, Venezuela, which has a claim to two-thirds of the country's 83,000 square miles; and in moving to interest the IMF and World Bank into providing new forms of assistance to the country.

At the domestic level, Hoyte's decision to permit the re-importation of wheaten flour — a commodity currently being supplied on most favourable terms by the USA — won him much applause among both supporters and political detractors.

Just last week, the Guyana authorities signed another agreement with the USA to supply an additional 40,000 tonnes of wheat flour at a cost of US\$4.4 million dollars (J\$24.2 m.)

The first agreement was entered into last year, following some heated debates within the hierarchy of the ruling party with some leading Central Committee members arguing against such a move.

Some of these still influential PNC officials, are also opposed to an IMF programme, arguing that there was no case history of the Fund's prescription really helping a country to overcome its economic woes.

Since its independence from Britain 21 years ago on May 26, Guyana has become one of the 20 poorest nations in the world.

With unemployment estimated around 30 per cent, high prices as

evidenced by a pound of chicken costing G14 dollars, electricity outages and water shortages as a way of life due to inadequate facilities and collapsing equipment; an official national debt of US800 million dollars (J\$4,400 m); the Hoyte administration does not have too many options in its efforts to meet its regional and international debt obligations and to check the negative to minimal growth trend in the national economy over the past seven years.

Current chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), President Hoyte has been seeking to involve Guyana's CARICOM partners into more barter-type agreements in order to overcome some of his own country's long-standing indebtedness, including that to the ill-fated Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF).

The Guyana Government has also been manoeuvring to win the support of other contributing members of the Caribbean Development Bank for a mutually satisfactory arrangement to repay its estimated US\$18 million dollars (J\$99 m) debt to the CDB — an issue that's expected to surface once again when the bank's Board of Governors meet for their annual conference in Grenada next Wednesday.

In spite of current problems, Hoyte told the May Day rally that "the situation today in Guyana is infinitely better than it was in the very recent past."

Political observers have interpreted this statement as an implicit criticism of the policies pursued by Burnham and of the living conditions under the rule of predecessor

Pollydor, while conceding that there have been some very encouraging signs of things changing for the better, said: "The reality of our experience is that there remains a great need for improvement from the daily hardships of workers."

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CSO: 3298/227

HOYTE ADDRESSES PNC GENERAL COUNCIL; LABOR ISSUES CITED

Report on Hoyte Speech

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 10 May 87 pp 1, 2

[Article by Colin King]

[Text] General Council, second highest forum of the PNC, yesterday extended participation to allow public sector managers, trade unionists and other invitees to share views, findings and suggestions on the reinvigoration of the economy.

Telling the quarterly Party forum of the need for extra effort, President and Party Leader Desmond Hoyte in the first of his two scheduled addresses said, "We have to gear up to take advantage of the numerous openings that are presenting themselves to us and by doing so help in the process of reinvigorating our economy."

Significant "stirrings" are evident in the economy, Cde Hoyte told the Party members and invitees, adding that there is need to analyse the process to ensure that it moves forward in the most beneficial way.

After his 36-minute address, in which developments in the public and private sector were reviewed and the attraction of overseas investment discussed, open discussion on the matters raised and related issues began with numerous well-received contributions being made up to a 13:00 hrs adjournment. Discussion was scheduled to resume at 15:00 hrs.

Mining, agriculture, agro-industry, metal manufactures, development finance, training and industrial relations were among the areas of development receiving attention in the presentations.

A process is in train, the President said, consistent with the objective which has been set of creating an environment in which economic activities can be encouraged, resulting in the benefits of improved standard of living and quality of life, "The process has started. Even the most benighted critics of this country and Government cannot deny that."

Programmes which have been organised are bearing fruit and "that process... will continue provided that we maintain a consistent approach to our work and do not allow ourselves to be diverted from the objectives which we have set ourselves,,we will have to be sufficiently strong in mind to ignore irrelevancies."

Cde Hoyte observed that wages of workers were a central part of the programme undertaken by Government, and congratulated all who par-

ticipated in the negotiation of the recent wages package for showing maturity, and responsibility in understanding where the best interest of the country lay.

All these developments, Cde Hoyte told General Council have been happening in the framework of a policy to create conditions for increased production and productivity and to give encouragement to all persons willing and able to contribute to the process now taking place.

The response of the people can be seen in the numerous economic developments mentioned and in 101 things I haven't mentioned and 101 things that I don't even know about in our country."

With regard to investment funds, the high liquidity of local commercial banks was noted and the need for foreign exchange to satisfy the import content of

possible local investment programmes highlighted.

There is need for foreign exchange inflows, which the country is now seeing, which will need to come from multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, Caribbean Development Bank, and Inter-American Development Bank, and from bilateral agencies, commercial banks and credit from suppliers.

"We have to demonstrate a certain seriousness to want to manage our economy well...I think we have been demonstrating that seriousness." Local technicians, the President observed, have made the diagnoses and come up with "our own remedy."

Part of the programme the country has to pursue has to do with the interlinked issues of debt and trade, the President said, noting particularly recent efforts by Guyana in sending delegations to all but two

Caricom member States to "stimulate trade and to link that trade with economic collaboration."

Strong initiatives have been taken to regularise the position with regard to the country's main Caricom creditor, Trinidad and Tobago, which a Guyana mission recently visited. Joint recommendations have been made to the two Governments by officials of the two countries.

A public and private sector delegation from Trinidad and Tobago is due in Guyana next month, when it is hoped to finalise matters which have been under discussion.

Before concluding his address and making way for the discussion, Cde Hoyte reiterated the need for all "to put in that extra effort...we need consistent effort...we need to insist on efficiency...."

### Council's Closing Session

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 May 87 pp 1, 5

[Text]

THE quarterly meeting of the People's National Congress General Council ended its three-day session at the Sophia Auditorium on Sunday.

On Friday the General Council heard reports from the Party's General Secretary, Cde Ranji Chandisingh, from the Regional Chairmen of Guyana's ten regions, from the General Secretary of the

W.R.S.M. and the Chairman of the Y.S.M.

On Saturday the meeting was extended to include managers and heads of Government corporations and departments when the Party's Leader, Cde. Desmond Hoyte delivered the first of his presentations on current developments in Guyana.

Impromptu accounts of projected and ongoing projects were given by several of the managers and heads present and a lively question and answer session followed.

Late on Saturday Cde Viola Burnham, Vice-President, Education and Social Development, made a presentation on "Developing A National Cultural Policy for Guyana."

The main feature of the Sunday session was the second presentation by President Hoyte who focused the Council's attention on the Part, s role in the light of developments taking place in the industrial and economic life of the nation.

CHRONICLE Comment

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 May 87 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

IT is necessary to return to President Hoyte's address to the General Council of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC), for the President's speech represents an analysis of the major International, political and economic developments over the past quarter, which have clear implications for the future of Guyana . In Sunday's paper, we dealt with the warning expressed by the President. Today, the opportunity is being taken to look at the responsibilities of the Trade Union Movement.

There are two things President Hoyte said on Saturday which are of national significance. Firstly, (the points which follow) are not given in any order of priority) an atmosphere of industrial tranquillity exists in Guyana. It was in these circumstances that a number of favourable economic developments — 'significant stirrings in the economy' — had occurred. Secondly, President Hoyte lauded the maturity of the TUC and others involved in negotiating the recent wage package. We believe that there is a nexus between the two things.

The climate of industrial peace which prevails in Guyana has resulted from a combination of prudent policies by the Government and the sense of responsibility demonstrated by most unions. We attribute this responsibility and maturity to a clear understanding by the unions concerned that national economic development has priority over any narrow or partisan considerations.

We would wish to see the maturity of the TUC taken further. The TUC has accepted a wage package from the Government. We would like to see a reciprocal concern in raising production in Guyana. In this regard, the General-Secretary of the TUC, Cde. Joseph Pollydore's assurance on May Day is most welcome. Cde. Pollydore said that the TUC is finalising arrangements for the implementation of a nation-wide crusade to educate and reorient workers on the need for greater output to achieve national goals.

Thank you Cde. General-Secretary. We await the unfolding of your programme.

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PNC ORGAN CITES JAGAN BLAST AT LACK OF UNION MILITANCY

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Apr 87 p 1

[Text]

IN A DOCUMENT ENTITLED 'General Secretary's Report to the 1987 County Conferences,' People's Progressive Party General Secretary, Dr. Cheddi Jagan has been speaking frankly, and not very complimentary, about some of his political associates.

Last week we shared with readers his comments on the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy. This week we bring you Dr. Jagan's views on the grouping of six unions which is usually critical of Government's policy and official TUC decisions.

'He accuses some of these union leaders of taking a position of 'Economism' which was undermining militancy and unity.

The grouping comprises the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union (GAWU); the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees (NAACIE); the Clerical and Commercial Workers' Union (CCWU); the University of Guyana Staff

Association (UGSA); the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors' Union (GBSU) and the Guyana Mineworkers' Union (GMWU).

Dr. Jagan begins by attacking the Guyana Trades Union Congress. Of the TUC he says: 'A bureaucratic trade union aristocracy has developed, which has taken a position of class collaboration under the system of parasitic bureaucratic/ state capitalism.'

Then turning to the 'Group of Six' he observes: 'Even within the six-union movements some of the leaders, though in favour of an independent TUC, take a position of 'economism' and see salvation through foreign capital. Consequently, in the latter regard, their positions coincide with the PNC Government and imperialism. This affects the organisational unity and militancy of the six-union movement.'

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DISUNITY IN PATRIOTIC COALITION FOR DEMOCRACY EXPOSED

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 Apr 87 p 1

[Text]

'We are astonished that Dr Jagan would attempt to question the veracity of our report on his comments about the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy. He actually did this in an interview with Pete Ninvalle which was aired on Radio Antilles.

No one was fooled by Dr Jagan's denials of internal wrangling in the PCD which we quoted him as reporting to his dwindling party faithfuls in his "General Secretary's report to the 1987 County Conferences".

What Dr. Jagan said in that document — and now seeks rather unconvincingly to deny — is known to every politically aware Guyanese. Indeed, the Inter-Press Service reporter (whoever he is) in filing his story on Dr Jagan's denials had this to say:

'Political observers are almost unanimous in their contention that the PCD does not represent a serious threat to the Desmond Hoyte administration, simply because of its motley collection of political forces and ideological postures.'

'The coalition does not have a clear leader, and indeed, as reported by the New Nation newspaper, some of the political parties comprising the coalition have very little support among the people.' No

more needs to be said on that score. It is what one would call a truism.

The simple fact is that the 'parties' in the PCD really don't like each other. So it was not at all surprising to hear Dr Jagan accuse them of 'variously "openly making anti-socialist propaganda", "covertly attacking our party" and being "hostile to our (PPP) political/ ideological objectives."

Indeed, in the run-up to the 1986 election campaign, the DLM suggested to the PPP that they should join forces for the elections. The PPP scornfully rejected this overture. In a press release of October 26, 1985, the PPP said that it wished to state "categorically that it will not join with the DLM or political mushrooms of its kind which are mere puppets of the imperialist power centres that generously hand out the money-bags for their crusades against national liberation and real socialism".

So much for the word of the PPP. In his report to the PPP's 22nd congress Dr Jagan dismissed the DLM as an "ultra-rightist fringe element".

Feeling understandably spurned DLM leader Paul Tennessee launched the most vicious attacks against Dr Jagan and the

PPP during the campaign. So much so that the Mirror of December 8, 1985 claimed that the DLM's "main pivot of attack is the PPP..."

The DLM even accused the PPP of breaking up a DLM public meeting on November 21, 1985, at Enterprise on the East Coast Demerara. In a statement the DLM said that "the PPP has a reputation of initiating violence and then prove incapable of dealing with the backlash."

Eusi Kwayana — for all practical purposes the leader of the WPA — has for a long time been saying the most unflattering things about Dr Jagan and the PPP. He has at various times called Dr Jagan "spiteful", "mischievous" and a "deliberate schemer". Kwayana once dismissed the PPP as a "low gutter-snipe party..."

Dr Jagan has, of course, said in his 1985 Congress Report that "the WPA no longer is taking a precise, scientific position..."

The only common denominator, then, among the elements in the PCD is their dislike of the PNC and envy of the obvious political support which our party enjoys. A sort of truce was agreed on in the aftermath of their election defeat in December 1986.

But—as Dr. Jagan now admits and an examination of the public record would substantiate—the show of unity is a mere fig leaf and the PCD a mere 'coalition' of expediency.

New Nation has no doubt about the authenticity of the document from which we again quote this week and which we propose to analyse more exhaustively in future issues.

Indeed, if Pete Nirvalle is interested, in the truth we are prepared to make a copy available to him for his perusal.

We are sure that, like us, he will find the contents (we hesitate to say analysis), interesting and revealing.

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CSO: 3298/227

OPPOSITION MOTIONS ON SOCIAL STATUS, ELECTIONS DEFEATED

WPA Motion's Fate

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 May 87 p 5

[Text]

A RESEARCH project has been prepared to determine the "national performance norm" of Guyanese students, Vice-President, Education and Social Development, Cde Viola Burnham disclosed to the National Assembly yesterday.

The project, which will involve a battery of tests in basic subjects, has been formulated after discussions with several agencies, Cde Burnham told the House during consideration of a motion tabled by Working People's Alliance Member Eusi Kwayana.

The motion, calling on Government to appoint a multi-disciplined, multi-class and multi-party commission to investigate all aspects of "social marginalisation" in Guyana, was thrown out after a lengthy debate involving Government and Minority spokesmen.

Yesterday's sitting of the Assembly, which lasted for about four hours, dealt with a number of questions from Minority members and answers from the Government side dealing with Government development policies and activities.

However, the WPA marginalisation motion dominated the session with arguments and counter arguments from both sides of the House.

In tabling the motion, Mr. Kwayana referred to a series of social problems facing disadvantaged groups who are marginal to the mainstream of society.

He referred to the case of

prisoners, pensioners, beggars and schoolchildren whose plights, he said, are frightening.

Kwayana was supported in his contention by People's Progressive Party members Cdes Isahak Basir, Harripersaud Nokta, Cyril Belgrave and PPP Leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan, who is also Leader of the Minority.

In his contribution to the debate, Dr. Jagan said there is need for more information and scientific analysis if the problems are to be resolved and planning is to be more successful.

According to the Minority Leader, an investigation into the social problems of the society should include a political solution to address the question of production and productivity.

But in rejecting the motion, Cde Burnham argued that several mechanisms, using a multi-disciplinary approach, were already in place to tackle some of the problems mentioned. These social problems, she noted, have been universally acknowledged.

Among the mechanisms identified was the Probation and Welfare Service, which has a programme of prevention and rehabilitation of offenders.

The problem of illiteracy, drugs and absenteeism are

also being tackled, despite staff problems, Cde Burnham noted. As a result of a survey done, the Vice-President added, a link has been proposed among the Probation Department, the Schools Welfare Service and the National Commission for Children's Welfare.

She said the call, in the motion for multi-party participation in tackling these social problems can be accommodated.

Also speaking against the motion were Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Cde Stella Odie-Ali who dealt with the programmes for the rehabilitation of prisoners and Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, who outlined Government's programme to deal with the drug problem.

The Assembly meets again today when several Bills will be read for the second time.

## **Support for Elections Commissioner**

**Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 May 87 p 5**

**[Text]**

**GEORGETOWN, May 14, Cana—AN OPPOSITION MOTION,** calling for an expression of no-confidence in the Chairman of the Elections Commission (EC), was defeated yesterday in the National Assembly (Parliament). The motion was tabled by leader of the Marxist People's Progressive Party (PPP), Dr Cheddi Jagan.

He was supported by leftist Working People's Alliance (WPA) member, Eusi Kwayana, and leader of the right-wing United Force (UF), Marcellus Feilden Singh.

In tabling the motion, Jagan contended that the chairman, retired Chief Justice Sir, Harry Bollers, had abdicated his constitutional responsibility, and was partisan during the conduct of past elections.

Jagan, later supported by Kwayana and Singh, also said the chairman of the commission had not been acting

independently.

Kwayana said the framework within which the chairman of the commission operated did not generate any confidence in him, because he was appointed by the country's President, himself the leader of a political party participating in the elections. Kwayana said the system applied in Trinidad and Tobago was more flexible in this regard.

Responding to the contributions by the Opposition, Vice-President and Attorney-General, Dr Mohamed Shahabuddeen, said members of the Elections Commission could be removed from office only for misbehaviour or inability to perform, based on the findings of a tribunal.

### **Impartial Gentleman**

He said he was surprised that minority representatives had opted to focus on the suitability of the person, rather than on systematic matters.

In his presentation, which lasted more than one hour, Shahabuddeen said the Chairman of the Elections Commission was a dignified and impartial gentleman, whose functions, constitutionally, were not subject to the control and direction of anyone.

The motion was defeated by the overwhelming majority vote of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC).

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GUYANA

BRIEFS

PROTOCOL CHIEF--The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced the appointment of Cde Robert McKenzie as Chief of Protocol (ag.) with effect from April 17, 1987. Cde McKenzie, a career Foreign Service Officer, served previously, as First Secretary and Counsellor at the Guyana Embassy in Cuba. Prior to his appointment, Cde McKenzie was Deputy Head of Political Division 1 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also enjoyed a brief period of attachment in the Protocol Directorate of the Office of the President. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 May 87 p 1] /9274

ADMONISHMENT OF PNC OFFICIALS--Leader of the People's National Congress Cde Desmond Hoyte has called on the Party Leaders in Region Six to adjust and to adapt to meet the changes in the society. Addressing the Regional Committee at the Guymine Management Centre, New Amsterdam, Comrade Leader noted that the Party cannot separate itself from the people. Party members must be in the forefront of efforts to improve the communities and in the continuing task of getting people to do things for themselves, he told the meeting. He called on them to pay less attention to words and to concentrate more on action. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 3 May 87 p 1] /9274

CSO: 3298/227

KONAKOM ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON ELECTORAL COUNCIL

Port-au-Prince LE HOUVELLISTE in French 11 May 87 p 7

[Text] It was precisely 1 month and 4 days ago that the Haitian people massively voted "Yes" on the 1987 Constitution, thus endowing the country with a basic charter binding all partners in our social and political life.

Since that time, the provisional government coldly chose to follow an interpretation of the provision of the constitution unduly extending by 2 weeks the period for promulgating the new law. Since that time also, the National Government Council (CNG) has just as coldly and just as improperly assumed the right of publishing the only French text of our constitution. There has since been publication by the Ministry of Information, following promulgation of the new constitution, of a list of parties that are registered or recognized, by virtue of a decree-law we now know is unconstitutional. Since that time also, the government has remained silent.

However, it so happens that according to the provisions of the constitution, one of the first measures that must immediately follow the promulgation of our basic charter is the establishment of the Provisional Electoral Council, provided for in Article 289 of our constitution. The constitution is categorical on this point and allows no other interpretation. Respect for the constitutional provisions implies that the government, without delay, must form and install the Provisional Electoral Council. This is all the more imperative because the period of time separating us from the first elections (for the KASEK and the communes, in July) is not long.

To the best of our knowledge, except for the Court of Appeal and the government itself, all the institutions concerned have appointed and published the names of their representatives on the Provisional Electoral Council. Consequently, the KONAKOM, the democratic sector, and all the Haitian people are asking: What has happened to the Electoral Council? What is the CNG waiting for to install the Electoral Council?

One thing is clear: On 29 March, the Haitian people, with positive reasons and despite their individual reservations, approved this constitution for several reasons, including these: to vote a resounding "No!" to the return of Macoutism and arbitrariness; and to take the responsibility for organizing elections away from the existing government, whatever its nature, once and for all.

Let the provisional government make no mistake about it: The Haitian people, who lived through 7 February 1986, 7 November 1986 and 29 March 1987, will accept no "trafficking" of the provisions of the constitution or any dilatory maneuver regarding them, particularly with respect to the Provisional Electoral Council. On that point, the KONAKOM emphasizes that according to the provisions of Articles 191-1, 191-2, 193, 196 and 197 relating to the Provisional Electoral Council:

The Electoral Council is responsible for organizing and overseeing, with complete independence, all election operations throughout the territory of the republic, until proclamation of the results of the voting. It keeps voting lists up to date.

It is the place for resolution of all challenges that arise, either in the elections or with respect to the application or violation of the election law.

Specifically speaking, the Provisional Electoral Council is responsible for drafting and executing the election law governing the coming elections (Article 289). It is also "responsible for receiving the filing of candidacies, ensuring strict application of the provisions of Article 291" ruling out Duvalier waste and criminals from any elective post (Article 292).

From the standpoint of our new constitution, it is clear that only the Provisional Electoral Council is empowered to administer the coming elections. Inasmuch as that Council remains in office until the installation in February 1988 of the constitutionally elected president, the task of the provisional government and its duty is to train immediately and install the Provisional Electoral Council. Its duty is also to endow that Council with all the material, technical and financial means needed to accomplish the work entrusted to it by the will of the sovereign. Finally, its duty also is to implement the means to guarantee the security of the members of the Electoral Council once they have taken office.

Any other approach is contrary to the spirit and the letter of the constitution and--let us say it outright--a violation of the constitution.

KONAKOM therefore says: *Fok pep la veye sou Konstitisyon an! An nou veye yo!* *An nou veye yo! An nou veye Konstitisyon an! An nou rele anmwe pou Gouvenman an mete Konsey Electoral la Kampe!* *Tet Ansanm, tet Anplas, Nap chanje sa.*

For the KONAKOM Secretariat:

Victor Benoit  
Jean-Claude Bajeux

11,464  
CSO: 3219/24

## BRIEFS

VOODOO ASSOCIATION FORMED--(AFP)--Several hundred priests and priestesses ("Houngans" and "Mambos") who practice voodoo met recently in a National Congress in Deronville, near Gonaives (fourth-ranking city of Haiti, 152 km northwest of Port-au-Prince) and decided to form a National Association of Haitian Houngans and Mambos, according to an announcement made to the AFP on Tuesday by the elected president of that organization, Herard Simon. The voodoo representatives, including several from the Haitian diaspora and priests from New York, chose the name Amour Zentray (abbreviation of Zenfants Tradition Haiti) as the Creole name of their association, Simon, a Houngan, said. Simon, 54, is spokesman for one of the largest organizations formed to defend the Haitian people's religion. Simon also said that the delegates to the congress had written to Gen Henri Namphy, president of the Haitian National Government Council (CNG) in a "petition letter" asking him to protect the voodoo clergy of the so-called Grand'Anse (southwestern tip of the island) against pressures and persecution of which it was victim, so that the religion might be practiced freely and that those trying to stand in its way be brought to justice. Delegates also decided to set up departmental federations and build community temples under such federations, where baptisms, marriages and funerals might be celebrated according to voodoo rites. Integration of priests and priestesses in the main universities of the country to speak on behalf of voodoo was also demanded by participants, who announced the organization of their second national congress to be held in the Grand'Anse in 1988. [Text] [Port-au-Prince HAITI LIBEREE in French 13 May 87 pp 1, 12] 11,464

ZANTRAY MOVEMENT DECLARATION--In a bulletin broadcast by radio on Wednesday, the year 1988 was declared the "year of the total liberation of voodoo in Haiti" by the Zantray Movement. Throughout the year, Zantray will wage an all-out fight against any obstacles to the liberation. The declaration, signed by Jean-Claude Cherubin, secretary general, announced that the slogans adopted for 1988 are: "A Zantray federation in every department; a temple for every federation." [Text] [Port-au-Prince HAITI LIBEREE in French 15 May 87 p 2] 11,464

CSO: 3219/24

## GOVERNMENT, AIR JAMAICA REACT TO SEIZURE OF PLANE BY U.S.

## U.S. Customs Action

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 May 87 p 1

[Text]

**A**NOTHER AIR JAMAICA JET with ganja has been seized by United States Customs and a US\$500,000 (over Ja. \$2.5-million) fine slapped on the national airline.

The ganja find was made on a flight out of a Norman Manley Airport at Kennedy Airport in New York on Wednesday. It was in a suitcase and a box, and weighed a total of 129 pounds.

Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, the Hon. Pearnell Charles, said yesterday that a letter of credit for US\$500,000 had been given to U.S. Customs, pending negotiations as they would be contesting the fine.

Up to yesterday, the plane was still in the custody of U.S. Customs.

Meanwhile, investigations are being made in Jamaica and the New York end into the matter, Mr. Charles said.

The last time ganja was found on an Air Jamaica plane was in March when 60 pounds of ganja was found on it.

The Minister said foreign airlines operating out of Jamaica had been fined millions of dollars, and they were considering stop carrying cargo out of the island.

In December 1986, Eastern Airlines stopped cargo shipments out of Jamaica after 234 pounds of ganja, mixed with a fish shipment, was found on one of their planes in Miami.

It resumed cargo shipments about a month later however after instituting stricter security measures.

In April last, 500 pounds of ganja was found on an Air Canada flight

at Toronto Airport in a shipment of farm produce from Norman Manley Airport, and the airline was fined Cn.\$2.2-million (J\$9-million).

Three persons were arrested in connection with the discovery and the exporter who handled the shipment was struck off the list of registered exporters by the Jamaica National Exporters' Corporation.

Airlines operating out of Jamaica besides Air Jamaica, Air Canada and Eastern, include British Airways, BWIA and COPA.

Mr. Charles said all airlines were affected by drug trafficking, but more so Air Jamaica because it had the most flights out of Jamaica.

He said security was such that efforts were made to check every passenger and piece of luggage going out on the airline.

Security costs to the airline were now so high, it ran second behind fuel costs.

Mr. Charles gave the news of the latest ganja find to an International Air Transport Association (IATA) security team making a courtesy call on him at his New Kingston office yesterday.

He told the IATA team that he knew their main objective was safety in the skies, but asked them to

look at security against "drug terrorists."

He said air transportation was important to Jamaica, giving as an example tourism which was a prime earner of well-needed foreign exchange.

Mr. Charles said "drug terrorists" were embarrassing the country, the airlines and passengers.

Members of the IATA team who called on the Minister were Captain Russell Beek, Vice-President, Operations, of Air Jamaica; Mr. Horner A. Boynton, Assistant Vice-President, Security, of American Airlines Inc.; Mr. Jack B. Wylie, Manager of Operational Security, Eastern Airlines; Mr. David Joyce, Head of security, British Airways, and Mr. Anthony Lowndes Adviser of JATA.

Mr. Boynton, replying on behalf of the callers, said they tried to co-operate with the Government of every country in which they operated.

In Jamaica, the co-operation had been good and his thinking was that co-operation would continue at the same level.

### Air Jamaica Criticism

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 May 87 pp 1, 3

[Text] Air Jamaica complained yesterday of undue pressure from U.S. Customs after an A-300 aircraft seized at New York's Kennedy Airport on Wednesday was released.

A Letter of Credit in the sum of US\$500,000 (J\$2.75 million) was submitted to U.S. Customs to secure release of the aircraft.

Mr Noel Hylton, president of Air Jamaica, who announced that the plane had been released said: "We are working with several agencies, including the Ministry of National Security, to maintain systems which will prevent the export of illegal drugs."

He added: "The result has been a tightening of our security measures, greater awareness among airport staff, and vigilant inspection of passenger luggage and cargo."

Wednesday's seizure marked the fifth occasion on which an Air Jamaica aircraft was confiscated by U.S. Customs. And, Mr Hylton said, in the majority of these cases the seizures were "patently illegal," based on U.S. drug legislation which "precludes seizure of commercial aircraft when drugs seized were properly manifested cargo or accompanied passenger baggage unless the airline or its personnel knew of the presence of drugs or were grossly negligent in failing to discover the contraband."

"In this case we were under pressure, asked to sign an indemnity to the effect that we would not take legal action against U.S. Customs," Mr Hylton said.

U.S. Customs have been placing undue pressure on Air Jamaica, based on the matter in which they had been seizing aircraft, he said.

Two pieces of luggage with 139 lbs of ganja were found at the John F. Kennedy Airport Customs Hall, tagged but unclaimed, on Wednesday and as a result the airline was seized.

"The fine in respect of Wednesday's seizure was some US\$1.112 million (J\$6.11) million which is imposed at the rate of about US\$500 (J\$2.750) per ounce," said Mr Hylton.

Meanwhile, the Air Jamaica President said its security had achieved "remarkable results" in preventing shipments of illegal drugs from both international airports.

He said that since January there had been some 112 seizures and some 957 lbs of ganja had been confiscated, through the use of dogs, body and hand luggage search,

From April to November last year there were some 73 seizures amounting to 3,438 lb of ganja, said Mr Hylton, who went on to state that "this sort of record makes it even more upsetting when ganja is found in our aircraft reaching U.S. ports, and when such discoveries result in seizures and heavy fines."

If this trend continued it would have far reaching repercussions, in that Air Jamaica aircraft could be seized for weeks pending outcome of court procedure, he said.

/9274  
CSO: 3298/228

## SEAGA DISCUSSES JLP ELECTIONEERING CAMPAIGN, DESIGNS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 May 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

**P**RIME MINISTER EDWARD SEAGA yesterday said that the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) was ready "to roll politically" and urged eligible Jamaicans to ensure that their names were on the Voters List. He said that this week Friday night was "the big night", indicating a major announcement would be made then.

"If you don't have a vote you don't have a chance...you can decide what you want to do with your vote when the right time comes," Mr. Seaga told a throng of cheering party supporters.

He added: "If you don't get your name on the (voters) list you don't have a vote, and if you don't have a vote you don't have a chance. So make sure that you get your name on the list."

The Prime Minister was addressing a function at the Watermount All-Age School in West Central St. Catherine in honour of Miss Enid Bennett, Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Security and Consumer Affairs, for her 20 years of unbroken service as a Member of Parliament.

Declaring that it was very important for Jamaicans who have attained the age of 18 to be enumerated, Mr. Seaga said: "...I can promise you that when the next election comes you are going to want to vote, and I can promise you that when the time comes you are going to want to vote the right way.

"Make sure your name is on the list, because those who feel this

year that they may not be ready to give the vote, I guarantee you that next year you are going to want to give the vote. Whenever it is called, whether it be this year or next year, you are going to want to give the vote."

Mr. Seaga went on to say: "Friday night in Spanish Town is the big night. The People's National Party has been holding meetings all over the island. The People's National Party has been running out in the political field. (But) we have sat back...we have done our work as a Government and now we have reached the stage where we have laid the foundation as a Government and we are ready to roll politically.

"So Friday night the Labour Party starts to roll politically and from thereafter we (will) continue our campaign until the people of the country are fully aware of what we

have done as a Government over the last six years."

"One by one the Labour Party is taking care of problems," he said.

Government was reviewing the Food Stamp Programme and a number of changes would be made. The booklets are to be distributed through post offices and the list of beneficiaries will be revised.

"Not only are we reorganising the manner in which the booklets are to be distributed but we are also looking at the programme and those persons whose names are on the list. Because some are dead, some gone abroad; and for one reason or the other, some names are on the list today that should not be there," he said.

The list, he said, was not being reviewed politically by persons that "we are appointing to do so." The list would be reviewed by Government officers so that nobody could accuse the Government of omitting names from the list because of political reasons.

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CSO: 3298/228

PSOJ CHIEF TO GOVERNMENT: HANDS OFF PRIVATE SECTOR

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 17 May 87 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] The growth of the Jamaican Government has been accompanied by sharp economic reverses and a decline in peace and social order, Mr Peter Thwaites, President of the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ) said Friday night.

Delivering the main address at the 20th anniversary and long service awards banquet of Dairy Industries Limited at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Mr Thwaites said, "This is not surprising when we consider the immense waste and incompetence which has often characterized government's management of our resources."

It was clear, he said, that Jamaica's political parties both accept the role of "big daddy" and they believed that the Government should dominate "our socio-economic affairs."

"We have developed a reliance on government for everything--from the cradle to the grave. This has resulted in the government constantly encroaching into areas of the economy which ought to be left to private sector initiative and enterprise," the PSOJ President told the audience. He said it was clear that the growth of government in Jamaica has been accompanied by sharp economic reverses and a decline in peace and social order.

He said everyone have seen government takeover from private owners from the end of the 1960's to the early 1980's: the Jamaica Omnibus Service (JOS); the Jamaica Telephone Company and the Jamaica Public Service Company; sugar factories; farms; hotels; mass communications media; and a host of other enterprises and economic activities.

Mr Thwaites asked if anyone could look at the record and honestly say that all this State intervention had made Jamaicans "better off?" He said that the clear answer was 'no' and the average Jamaican, and the economy as a whole, were significantly poorer today than they were 15 years ago.

Looking at the JOS, the Private Sector Association President said when it was privately-owned, Jamaica had a better transport system. From the moment that the Government took it over, the services began to deteriorate, despite increasing subsidies from the Budget, until "everything crashed."

The PSOJ President said, "We are now painfully and expensively trying to rebuild a privately-owned public transport system which is hobbled, on the one hand, by the country's lack of foreign exchange to import the type and number of buses needed, and on the other, by the government bureaucrat bent on imposing an unwelcome product on a protesting consumer.

"This is the arrogance of the State which says it always knows what is best: and if you challenge this orthodoxy you are accused of being the puppet of foreign heretics," he said.

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CSO: 3298/228

CDB RELEASES REPORT ON 1986 ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

FL121848 Bridgetown CANA in English 2128 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 11, CANA - The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), basing its assessment on available data, says in its 1986 annual report the economy of Montserrat seemed to have grown by 5.1 per cent in 1986, compared with 4.6 per cent in 1985. Agriculture was adversely affected by a long, dry season and there was an unusual drop in tourist arrivals in April and May.

Nevertheless, the authorities continued to institute measures to develop the country's agricultural, financial and human resources and to broaden its economic base. Agricultural services were strengthened, mainly through the provision of new capital equipment and the upgrading of marketing and extension services.

In the area of financial and human resources development, new measures were adopted to mobilise and utilise domestic savings and to rationalise the education system.

During the first nine months of 1986 arrivals of stopover visitors fell by 7.6 per cent to 11,791, compared with 12,761 in the same period in 1985. At the same time, the number of excursionists to Montserrat rose by 26.1 per cent to reach 8,044.

Although North American tourists constituted the largest group of visitors to Montserrat, arrivals from United States and Canada shrank by 10.5 per cent and 12.9 per cent, respectively. This development owed much to a contraction in the activities of the medical school as well as to the success of the drive within United States to increase internal vacation travel.

As a result of better access to external markets, especially in United States, economic activity in manufacturing picked up in 1986, with the electrical and electronic parts sub-sector playing the leading role; in 1986 export sales of these commodities increased by almost 100 per cent over 1985 sales.

Sales of Sea Island cotton products also improved, mainly in response to a new marketing thrust and changes in product design by the Montserrat Sea Island Cotton Company.

In the nine months ending September 1986, lending by commercial banks to the private sector rose by 5.1 per cent, while credit to central government increased by 10.9 per cent. In the comparable period in 1985, credit to government fell by 11.9 per cent while credit to the private sector rose by 1.2 per cent.

Though fluctuating somewhat, growth in bank credit to the personal and construction sectors was faster in the first nine months of 1986 than in the comparable period in 1985, reflecting a rapid expansion in credit for house and land purchases.

However, because of continued hesitancy in the business community the rate of growth in bank credit to the manufacturing and tourism sectors declined by almost 2 per cent and 34.7 per cent respectively.

The upturn import prices in the first nine months of 1986 as well as supply bottlenecks, led to a 2.5 per cent increase in the consumer price index, compared with a 1.2 per cent increase in the corresponding period in 1985. Price increases were mainly associated with an 8.8 per cent increase in the price of food and non-alcoholic beverage.

With a buoyancy in real income, merchandise imports expanded by 1.4 per cent per month in the first nine months of 1986 to 14.2 million dollars, from 12.4 million dollars in the same period in 1985, while the value of domestic exports almost doubled, moving up from 0.7 million dollars to 1.3 million dollars.

The strengthening of export demand reflected mainly increases in U.S. demand, since exports to other Caricom (Caribbean Community) countries generally stagnated.

During 1986, in spite of shortfalls in revenue arising from income tax concessions which became effective in April, government was able to record a budgetary surplus of 0.6 million dollars as was estimated. Capital expenditure rose slightly to 1.6 million dollars in the first nine months of 1986, compared with 1.3 million dollars in the same period in 1985.

Prospects for 1987 are for continued economic growth, providing the country is able to export more goods to markets outside of Caricom and is able to attract more foreign private investment. In the fiscal area, tax measures introduced in January 1987 could lead to a moderate increase in government revenue, but there is the need for more substantial revenue generating measures.

On the expenditure side, government is expected to continue to pursue policies to curb recurrent expenditures. Public sector investment will give priority to projects that can be financed from grants or through funds obtained on highly concessionary terms.

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CSO: 3298/229

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

### PRIME MINISTER, OTHERS DISCUSS IMPACT OF DRUGS REPORT

#### Robinson on Drugs 'Takeover'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 May 87 p 7

[Text]

**SAN FERNANDO**—PRIME Minister ANR Robinson, Political Leader of the National Alliance For Reconstruction (NAR) last night referred to the Scott Report and the seriousness of its revelations.

He told the San Fernando East Constituency of the National Alliance For Reconstruction, at their Constituency meeting held at Barron Building, Cipero Road, while touching on the question of corruption:

"We all know also of the revelations that have been made in the Scott Report—

the extent to which Trinidad and Tobago had reached—the verge of almost being taken over by drug pushers, and by persons engaged in the drug trade."

#### Still Operating

He spoke about the extent to which the drug pushers and drug dealers were still operating in the country.

He said that a lot of the campaign going on in the newspapers against the National Alliance has its origin with the drug dealers.

Prime Minister Robinson observed that some of the agitation in the streets over some of the measures that they have taken, "and the campaign that we are waging against the drug dealers

and drug pushers and the corrupt elements in our society, have their origin in the drug dealers."

He told the audience that they must never forget that: "because you know we have not eliminated anybody, we have not liquidated anybody, as would happen in most of the Third World countries."

He mentioned that some of those people were still aspiring to get to top positions in society from where they have been displaced.

#### Sense Of Pride

He promised to step up the campaign against the drug pushers and drug dealers, come what may, "until we have cleaned that thoroughly in the national life of this country." On corruption, the Prime Minister told the overflow hall that it was an honest commitment that they should get rid of corrup-

tion in the national life of the country.

"We all know the evil, the damage, that has been caused by the corruption" which was rampant before the NAR came into power, he told the meeting.

He called on all members of the NAR to have a sense of pride over what they have been able to achieve, not only in the election, but since the election.

And the Prime Minister referred to his remarks made in Parliament sometime ago concerning what he said about being a "messenger."

He told the meeting that when he said certain persons have been in Parliament by the Grace of God, he meant by the grace of the San Fernando East Constituency, by the Executive of the NAR.

### PNM Officials' Implication

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 17 May 87 pp 1, 19

[Article by Anthony Milne]

[Text]

**TRINIDAD** and Tobago is setting the pace and providing inspiration to millions of people in the developing world where democracy and racial harmony are concerned, Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson told members of the National

Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) at the party's Diego Martin West constituency conference on Friday.

But the Prime Minister warned that Trinidad and Tobago "came very close last year to being taken over by people involved in the drug trade." He claimed that it appeared that five officials of the former People's National Move-

ment (PNM) administration were involved. "We have discovered that 12 of 16 ships in our Coast Guard, our principal protection against the drug trade, weren't in working order," Robinson added, "and there is strong evidence that this was deliberate."

He said this and the "hiding of the Drug Report by the last Government" suggested there was a plan to cover up the whole affair and allow those involved to hide their tracks. "In many other countries those implicated would not be put on trial but simply lined up and shot," he continued, "but we know the people of Trinidad and Tobago want something else which may be more difficult but which will leave us stronger in the long run."

The foundations of human dignity, honesty and respect for the rights of others must be built on rock not sand to produce a self-respecting people, he added.

The Prime Minister, who is also political leader of the NAR, stressed that while there was a sense of relief now with the change of Government, many problems still existed: the ship was no longer sinking but the seas were still rough.

Speaking at the Four Roads Community Centre, where new constituency officials for Diego Martin West were elected, Robinson stressed that liberal democracy and peaceful change of governments was not the usual pattern in the developing world, pointing to the recent military coup in Fiji as an example of what usually takes place.

Describing current conditions in Trinidad and Tobago as "difficult but exciting," he noted that the coup in Fiji was the result of racial disharmony there, and indicated that there had been about 100 coups in the developing world between 1972 and 1984.

But Trinidad and Tobago was now showing the world a developing country could maintain democratic practices, providing inspiration and encouragement

for other developing countries, he stated.

"The greatest evil besides drugs is racism and what is going on in South Africa is an abomination," Robinson continued, "but the NAR has rejected all that and it would be a most deadly sin for anyone to raise race as an issue here again."

This would be going backwards and destroying all the new values being put in place, he stressed.

"No one race will dominate Trinidad and Tobago in the future," he emphasised, "and you the rank and file finally decided that when you urged us to come together in the NAR."

The Prime Minister also spoke about development, explaining that Trinidad and Tobago could still be described as a "developing country" because it was so influenced by events in the outside world, including fluctuations in the price of oil. He stressed the need to diversify the economy and spread the use of new technology, and to produce goods of uniform quality that could compete in both price and quality in world markets.

The political leader said he would try to attend most of the NAR constituency conferences now taking place and described the election of officers at Friday's conference as "model democracy in action," equivalent to what obtained in any of the democratic countries of the world.

"I want to see and meet the party membership," Robinson told the conference, "and I want them to see I am still alive and kicking."

"We have a manifesto which outlines our plans and no PNM must be able to tell us now we must do this and do that," the Prime Minister ended, "that is impertinent and out of place."

### Issue of Official Appointments

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 20 May 87 p 1

[Text]

**THE FATE of several magistrates and some 52 policemen suspended following publication of the Scott Drug Report is up to the Service Commissions, Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson said last night.**

But there is a "problem" between the Government and those commissions that is still to be resolved, he told a news conference at Whitehall.

He added that "the whole country is being let down by certain exemplars... Commissioners who know they have been illegally appointed and continue to serve are a disgrace to the country. And the population should deal with it."

Robinson said Government had inherited the existing personnel of the commissions and there had been resistance to the Government's efforts to change those personnel.

The Prime Minister, speaking at the first Prime

Ministerial news conference to be carried live on radio and television, said the executive had no control over these commissions.

He said the country felt "safer" since the publication of the Drug Report, since "information is power." And while he felt the Government was under threat from drug lords, he personally was going to continue his political life as normal.

He said his Government felt there was a threat to the nation at large posed by the drug barons but he was doing his business "come what may."

The appointment of the Police Commissioner had been a problem, he said, because of the state of the service but it was now before the Police Service Commission.

## Hostility Toward NAR

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 20 May 87 p 2

[Text]

PRIME Minister A.N.R. Robinson has repeated charges that certain people involved in corruption and illegal drug-trafficking are responsibility for much of the current hostility aimed at the National Alliance for Reconstruction Government (NAR).

He warned party members they must be aware of what was going on and stand shoulder to shoulder to save the nation as the NAR had set out to do.

Speaking at the NAR Caroni East constituency conference on Monday evening, the Prime Minister said the people involved in corruption and drugs were threatening to take over the country before last December's general election and while the menace grew, the former People's National Movement (PNM) Government allowed protection of the nation to diminish.

"We have saved the nation but the threat is still there," Robinson maintained, "these people are not satisfied and the press campaign against the NAR Government derives from that."

He declared also that recent street demonstrations were not so much concerned with the removal of COLA as with "elements of corruption and drug dealers pushing fire against the NAR."

The Government had taken action and implemented integrity legislation and started a campaign against corruption and drugs, he stressed, but no one had been killed as might happen elsewhere.

"The corrupt and the drug people are still among us," Robinson added, "and they hope to get back into positions of influence so they can sink their teeth into the necks of the population and suck their blood."

## Union Calls for Disclosure of Names

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 26 May 87 p 31

[Text]

THE executive of the Communication Workers Union has called on Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson to name the "corrupt elements and drug dealers who are using the legitimate protests of workers against the Government," or clarify statements made in the press.

Quoting from a May 18 article which appeared in the Express where

the Prime Minister was reported as saying that recent street demonstrations were not so much concerned with the removal of COLA as with "elements of corruption and drug dealers pushing fire against the NAR," CWU said the statement can only be described as "provocative, opportunistic and showing total disrespect for the legitimate rights of trade unions, workers and other members of the society."

## Drug Squad Disbandment

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 26 May 87 p 3

[Text]

A SPECIAL police task force which was set up several months ago to deal with the drug-trafficking menace, has been disbanded and the men who worked under Asst Commissioner (North) Kenny Mohammed have been told to report to Headquarters today to be reassigned.

The Express understands that the Task Force had conducted several raids during its operation and to date they had uprooted and destroyed over 300,000 fully grown marijuana trees in forests throughout Trinidad.

They have also been reported to be very active in "Coke City", Cooperative Street in Curepe, where over 20 raids

had been conducted and one particular individual, as well as members of a certain "well-to-do" family of the area, had been arrested on several occasions and charged with the possession of narcotics.

Several senior officers of the Northern and North-Eastern Divisions, have expressed their disagreement with the disbanding of the

Task force, citing that the men worked tirelessly in their efforts to eradicate the growing drug-trafficking.

Official sources at Police Headquarters have said that the Task Force was disbanded because it was thought that men were not being put "to the best possible use."

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CSO: 3298/230

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

POLICE ARMS STOLEN; JOINT MILITARY-POLICE ACTION ORDERED

Report on Theft

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 May 87 p 1

[Article by Francis Joseph]

[Text] Two submachine guns have been stolen from the Police Armoury at the St James Barracks, Port-of-Spain. According to reports, the theft of the SMGs on Monday brings to five the number of guns stolen from the armoury within the past two weeks.

When contacted last night, National Security Minister Herbert Atwell said he also had only just received information and was awaiting acting Police Commissioner Clive Sealey to advise him about the matter.

Senator Atwell said he had no details on the thefts.

Commissioner Sealey said he had not yet spoken to the Minister about the matter but added that a general inspection of the armoury began yesterday, spearheaded by Deputy Commissioner Lionel Dechi. The inspection continues today.

Mr Sealey said he did not visit the armoury yesterday and could not comment further until he had spoken to Minister Atwell, who spent most of yesterday in the Senate.

Prime Minister A. N. R. Robinson also has been informed about the theft of the guns and is to get a report from the National Security Minister.

Two revolvers were reported stolen during the Police Sports Day on May 2 and another disappeared last week.

Tightened Security

Up to last night, senior Police officials were baffled about the disappearance of the guns. They asked how a place that is guarded 24 hours a day, seven days a week, could be broken into and lethal weapons taken.

Since the disappearance of the two revolvers, security had been tightened around the barracks. Members of the Guard and Emergency Branch (GES) were put on full watch on the armoury which houses most of the weapons used by the Police Service.

Visits to the barracks by members of the public were somewhat reduced since the guns disappeared.

#### Government Reaction

FL262233 Bridgetown CANA in English 2155 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Port-of-Spain, 26 May (CANA)--Text of a statement issued to the Senate today by Minister of National Security Herbert Atwell in which he updated the house on the recent theft of guns from the police armoury and announced that soldiers will join police crime patrols:

On 20 May, I gave a release indicating that three firearms, that is to say, two sub-machine guns and one revolver, had been discovered missing from the police armoury, St James Barracks.

The acting commissioner of police advised me that some time between 29 April and 2 May, an unsuccessful attempt was made to break into the warehouse where weapons are stored.

I should like to advise that weapons are stored at various locations at the barracks for specific reasons of security. An examination of the premises disclosed a section of the cast iron fence was broken, the hasp and staple used were bent, and there were indentations on the lock. The premises are under armed guard around the clock, and the attempt occurred a mere 15 feet away from where the sentry is normally positioned.

Following discovery of this attempted break in, the scene was visited by the police fingerprint expert and police photographers. Guards were doubled in the area and increased surveillance was instituted instantly. Enquiries therefore began.

As a result of these enquiries, yesterday 25 May 1987, the minister of national security was advised by the acting commissioner of police that a total of eight police weapons had been recovered comprising of four sub-machine guns, three self-loading rifles, five empty S.L.R. magazines and one revolver.

All the weapons recovered so far have been positively identified as weapons removed from the police armoury. Four policemen and four civilians have been arrested and charged.

The acting commissioner has indicated that all ammunition had been accounted for. I wish to express publicly the government's appreciation to those officers who worked round the clock in these investigations.

Arising out of these incidents and following consultation with the honourable prime minister, I have yesterday appointed the chief executive officer of the National Security Council and special adviser to the cabinet on all protective services, Mr L. J. Rodriguez, to enquire into the administrative procedures and security measures for the control and safe custody of weapons at the police armoury at St James Barracks.

He will report specifically with reference to the person or persons entrusted with responsibility for the observance and enforcement of such procedures and measures as are at present established, including the taking of an inventory at the armoury.

Mr Rodriguez has been recalled from vacation to undertake this short assignment and he has been asked to do so immediately with a view to expeditious reporting of his findings not later than the end of this week.

I wish to state also that, after initial meetings with the commissioner of police and the assistant commissioner (crime) last week, in response to a situation of increasing criminal activity and public concern, I have arranged in consultation with the commissioner of police and the chief of defence staff, for resources of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force to be utilised in support of the police service in its current campaign against crime.

With immediate effect, therefore, joint military-police patrols have been instituted in selected districts, on a limited scale initially, in all nine police divisions throughout Trainidab and Tobago. It is proposed to increase the extent of such joint patrols if the situation does not improve.

Arrangements to put the system into effect were finalised at an emergency meeting held by the minister with the commissioner of police and chief of defence staff on 21 May, 1987, following which co-ordination of the joint operations was assigned to the deputy commissioner (operations) and the senior defence staff officer (operations).

Finally, concerning the report in a weekly newspaper of Tuesday, 26 May, 1987, in which it is alleged that ten sub-machine guns are missing from the army at Teteron, I wish to state categorically, after receiving a report from the chief of defence staff, that all arms and ammunition of the Trinidad and Tobago defence force are accounted for.

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ROBINSON PROMISES TO IMPLEMENT ELECTION MANIFESTO

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 17 May 87 p 1

[Text]

OPPOSITION People's National Movement (PNM) is "fast and impertinent" to demand immediate remedies to national problems from the five-month old National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) administration.

Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson delivered this condemnation while speaking at the annual conference of the Diego Martin West NAR constituency Friday night.

He also told the packed audience at the South Diego Martin Community Centre that the "ship" (Trinidad and Tobago) was no longer sinking even though the "seas are still rough".

Mr Robinson who promised to attend as many as he could of the conferences now taking place throughout the 36 electoral districts, warned too, that the politics of race must never be resurrected, that racism was one of the most deadly sins.

In an address which ended around 11.30 p.m. he also dealt with critics of the new administration. Mr Robinson pointed out that the NAR went to the electorate with a manifesto, and the Government was elected for a period of five years.

### Five-Year Period

NAR he continued, would implement as much of the manifesto as possible during the five-year term, and he emphasised:

"No PNM who has been rejected, who has had the opportunity for 30 years, no such PNM must be able to come and tell us, do that NOW; do this NOW."

"Fastness, impertinence...out of place. They are carrying one love too far."

"It is time we tell them like it is," an exuberant member of the audience shouted.

Advising cheering members to read the manifesto, he added they had the right to ask their representative what was being done about fulfilling the promises in the document.

Stressing that the country had not yet met the challenge of Independence Mr Robinson, who spoke in his capacity as Political Leader of the NAR, said he was grateful and deeply honoured for the confidence the citizens placed in the NAR and in him personally on December 15, 1986 when the NAR defeated the PNM 33-3.

Pledging to do his best under the present trying circumstances Mr Robinson said:

"As the Calypsonian said, captain the ship is sinking, the seas are rough. I can say with confidence tonight, we have stopped the ship from sinking. There is no sinking ship in Trinidad and Toabgo."

"But the sea is still rough. The ship is seaworthy. The waves are buffeting about, and when that happens people start to get sick."

"Even the crew gets sick, some of them even vomit on their colleagues. We will weather the storm"

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Welfare and the Status of Women Margaret Hector who is also the parliamentary representative for the constituency gave an account of her stewardship.

Elected chairman of the constituency was Councillor Patrick Rampersad.

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UNION 'RADICALS' HIT; 'CORRECTIVE ACTION' URGED

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 10 May 87 p 3

[Article by SUNDAY GUARDIAN correspondent: "Unionism--A Tale of Evil"]

[Text]

EVERY TIME the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) has a serious problem with the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission, (TTEC) it is the innocent public that is punished by the direct and indirect actions of union activists.

If a psychological profile could be done on the workers responsible, it would be difficult to avoid the conclusion that they are displaying varying forms of psychosis. This describes a spectrum of mental aberration that says it is alright to make others suffer.

There are those in the OWTU with another form of psychological warp. These are ideologues whose double speak promotes power to the worker when they really mean suppression of the masses and everyone else.

Whatever the medical assessment, the fact is that we in this society, are tormented by a handful of radicals in the OWTU.

To make matters worse, the chief radicals, the leaders in this clan, effervesce over television — their favourite platform where they are always welcome — of the dangers that await the public if matters are not settled their way.

Thus, they are always free and welcome to use the television medium the people pay for, to threaten the same people. Are we going to take another 30 years before we call for corrective action?

### Social Disorder

While all this imbalance goes on, the public suffers through damaged electrical equipment, personal inconvenience, spoilt food, ruined schedules, reduced productivity and other forms of related problems, while TTEC workers allow the grid to deteriorate without maintenance. Trouble reports pile up by the hundreds. The spectacle of those large, yellow TTEC vehicles, packed with non-performing slothful-looking workers,

keeping back traffic as they drive ever so slowly to and from assignments, is in fact an open slap in the face of the public.

It says in so many words — "we can do what we wish and there is nothing you can do about it." It is called anarchy. It is called social disorder. It is called dislocation.

These slow-moving vans make it their business to include the time taken for their slow and leisurely drives, in their regular eight-hour sessions, so that if a fault has to be repaired at the far end of Chaguanas, then the slow-moving van of indifferent workers who have to do the repairs, do not start the repairs at 7 a.m. Rather, they leave their premises at 7 a.m. and waste almost one hour going and one hour returning.

While they are on site, they take their own cool time about repairing the problem. Once again the public suffers.

### Several Others

What makes the situation even more frightening is the heavily one-sided legislative and societal approaches which forever make business the butt of suspicion, and which applaud commissions against so-called monopolies; but which take no action whatsoever when an organisation like the OWTU becomes a frightening monopoly...that no one complains about.

God help the individual businessman were he to own all of Trintec, all of Trin-topec, all of TTEC, all of Lever Brothers, all of Trinidad Food Products, and several others. He would be pilloried and railed against. He would be constantly attacked as a monstrous monopolist. There would be marches and complaints and picket lines calling for him to be stripped of so much power.

Yet this is precisely what is not done in connection with the spread and growth of a union monopoly like the OWTU.

How come no one sees the monopolies in unions? Furthermore, isn't it amazing that in a country where 80 percent of the economy is controlled and owned by

the Government, there are forces within that very Government calling for a control of monopolies? This column has said more than once before that the biggest monopoly by far is the Government.

Next in line are the trade unions. Will the Monopolies Commission make the Government the first object of its scrutiny? Will it make the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union the second object of its scrutiny? And when the obvious is established, namely, that the state and the OWTU are the largest monopolies around, will the Monopolies Commission take action against them and make them break up into smaller pieces?

### **Merely Specific**

After all, what is good for the goose is also good for the gander, and if the Monopolies Commission is to be generic in approach and not merely specific, then they should first look at the Government and union monopolies and where better to start than the oil industry where with the exception of AMOCO, everything is owned by the Government and where, with the inclusion of AMOCO, everything is controlled by the OWTU?

No business can rival the giants of Government and trade unionism, so let us not make a political song and dance about business monopoly.

Let those without guilt cast the first stone.

The injustice does not stop there. We now have the spectre of the Prices Commission where it is understood, the Commission is blocking the smooth and expeditious operation so that business continually loses millions of dollars a quarter. Hardly a better way to be found for sabotaging large sectors of private enterprise.

Perhaps the profit-hater's would care to tell the public how much profit (an audited figure) the OWTU has made over the past 10 years and what lifestyles the top unionists enjoy...despite their anti-capital stances.

The tale of evil does not end there. To its already gargantuan monopoly, the OWTU has now enlisted the support of Comrade Richards, the Minister of Labour, and several other comrades in his Ministry who openly bow and scrape to the OWTU. Are these the same people who are chanting about the monopolies in business?

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED, DISCUSSED IN PARLIAMENT

Balance of Payments Deficit

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 12 May 87 p 5

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago incurred its largest balance of payments deficit "since at least 1970" during 1986, according to the Central Bank's annual report for the year ending December 31, 1986, laid in the House of Representatives on Friday.

Foreign exchange reserves fell by two-thirds and stood at \$1,208.2 million at the end of the year, and much of the leakage of foreign exchange was due to the postponement for six months of the effect of the new exchange rate on the payments for goods imported during the previous year. There were also difficulties in managing the dual exchange rate.

"Teh gains achieved in 1985 when the deficit was reduced to \$253 million or 1.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) were reversed as the deficit rose to \$2,371.6 million or 13.6 percent of GDP," the Central Bank report states.

"Both the current account (minus \$1,917.6 million) and the capital account (minus \$145.5 million) deteriorated," the report adds, "with a consequent considerable loss of foreign exchange reserves."

The point points out that in 1986 the economy was affected by the "collapse in international oil prices," reducing tax revenues from oil companies by almost one-third, and by the "lower level of activity in the economy."

In spite of new revenue measures in the 1986 Budget and the "positive effect of the devaluation on the nominal Trinidad and Tobago dollar-value of oil and foreign trade related revenues," recurrent revenue fell by 18.4 percent, or \$1,170 million, to \$5,191 million.

Nevertheless, the overall Budget deficit was reduced to \$1,168 million compared with \$1,362 million in 1985.

## Debate on Mini-Budget

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 17 May 87 p 2

[Text]

A MINI-BUDGET debate began in the House of Representatives in the early evening on Friday, May 8, and continued there last Monday after Minister in the Ministry of Finance and the Economy Selby Wilson introduced the Finance Bill 1987.

The bill was passed in the House on Monday.

The main object of the Finance Bill, according to its explanatory note, is to "give full effect to the financial measures provided for in the Provisional Collection of Taxes Order 1987 [passed on January 32], the purpose of which was to implement temporarily the proposals contained in the Budget Speech 1987."

The "long title" of the Finance Bill makes its purpose clearer: "an Act to amend the law relating to Health Surcharge, Income Tax, National Recovery Impost, Corporation Tax, Petroleum Tax, Stamp Duty, Purchase, Sweepstake, Departure and Airline Tax and Customs Duty."

It involves the implementation of administrative mechanisms (how new taxes will be collected) and fiscal measures (how the Government will raise money), already mentioned in the Budget.

The Government's financial troubles include a total debt of \$7.4 billion at the end of 1986, of which \$5.6 billion is owed to lending institutions abroad.

Wilson stressed that the Finance Bill was the "final stage of the legislative process" where the Budget was concerned, and that the government was not now "presenting a new Budget, but simply adopting the procedures required by law."

The Finance Bill is divided into seven parts and 31 clauses. Each part deals with a particular measure or with amendments to a particular law.

Part one deals with the Health Surcharge, implementing administrative measures to ensure better collection by removing this responsibility from the National Insurance Board and giving it to the Board of Inland Revenue, and ex-

tending it to the self-employed and to income from rents, dividends and other sources. People over 60 whose only source of income is a pension need not pay this tax.

Part two deals with amendments to the Income Tax Act, exempting from income tax anyone earning up to \$12,000 per year, limiting claims for exemption from income tax for mortgage interest to \$48,000 per year for deeds executed before January 23, 1987, and to \$36,000 for deeds executed after this date, and imposing a ceiling of \$10,000 per year for claims on house repairs.

There has also been an increase in the personal allowance for pensioners from \$2,500 to \$2,750, a formula to calculate the spouse allowance where both spouses earn income, and an increase in the child allowance for students abroad from \$3,800 to 6,000.

For purchase of bonds, only 75 per cent of the capital purchased is tax-deductible, not exceeding a maximum deduction of \$12,000, and there are measures that seek to induce bond purchases over a five-year period. Deeds of covenant are restricted to charitable bodies and non-proprietary sporting clubs, after January 23, 1987. The penalty interest to be paid on tax arrears has been unified at 15 per cent, and people with savings in banks must now submit

their income-tax file number to their bank to facilitate collection of tax on income earned from savings.

Part Three deals with the National Recovery Impost, helping to share the sacrifice among all citizens. Earnings from it go to the Consolidated Fund. Just over \$9 million was collected in the first quarter.

Part Four deals with an amendment to the stamp-duty laws and remove this tax from imported textbooks, literature, magazines, newsprint, newspapers and workbooks.

Part Five addresses the tax on airline tickets, which has been increased from five to 10 per cent, and responsibility for the collection of this tax removed from the Director of Civil Aviation and placed in the hands of the Airports Authority. Purchase taxes have been increased by five per cent.

Part Six supplies a new table for corporation taxes, and Part Seven deals with miscellaneous matters.

The Senate will have many things to talk about when the bill goes there on Tuesday.

Robinson on Foreign Exchange

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 20 May 87 p 1

[Text] The Government's measures to stabilise the economy and save foreign exchange have worked better with the private sector than the public sector, Prime Minister A. N. R. Robinson told a news conference televised live from Whitehall last night. "The private sector's demand for foreign exchange has fallen from \$24 million to \$7 million per week," the Prime Minister stated, "but debt-servicing problems in the public sector have made this more difficult there."

Asked whether further measures are now needed to be taken to redress the revenue shortfall in the first financial quarter, Robinson said alternatives were to be considered by the National Economic Planning Commission (NEPC) which would involve more consultation with the population than was possible with initial emergency measures.

The Prime Minister maintained that bureaucratic procedures in the Ministry of Industry and Enterprise had been speeded up, and noted that a draft investment policy had been published. The Government, he added, wished to encourage greater local and foreign private sector investment.

He said it did not appear Trinidad and Tobago could regain in the short term the economic position of the boom '70s, but when plans to diversify the economy away from dependence on oil eventually began to pay off, things could be at least as good.

An overall economic plan for the nation was being worked on but had been made difficult by the lack of planning facilities which were the result of the former administration's "abandonment" of planning in the 1970s.

The latest information he had received, Robinson indicated, was that tenders would go out next month for a number of development projects.

He stressed the importance of the development of tourism, especially in Tobago.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

IRON PRODUCTS EXCHANGE IN ISCOTT DEAL WITH VENEZUELA

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 10 May 87 p 3

[Text]

THE Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT) will bring in more than \$21 million (US) in foreign exchange in an agreement signed last week with the Venezuelan-based SIDOR steel company to provide direct reduced iron (DRI) from iron ore billets purchased under contract.

The agreement was signed in Venezuela by ISCOTT's president, Sam Martin, and SIDOR president, Cezair Mendoza. The ceremony was witnessed by this country's Ambassador in Caracas, Christopher Thomas, and Venezuela's Ambassador to this country Maria Clemencia Lopez-Jimenez.

According to the agreement, ISCOTT will

receive from Sidor between 360,000 and 450,000 tonnes of iron ore billets and in return ISCOTT will sell back to SIDOR between 240,000 and 300,000 tonnes of DRI. The contract will be for one year duration and the arrangement will mean that ISCOTT's two DRI plants will be able to operate simultaneously for the full period of the contract.

It was learnt that ISCOTT would be purchasing the iron ore billets at about \$30 (US) a tonne and would sell the DRI to SIDOR at about \$100 (US) per tonne.

ISCOTT's public relations officer, Keith Subero, declined to comment on the price but said the agreement would result in considerable foreign exchange.

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## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

### NEW PROJECTS HIGHLIGHT DEVELOPMENTS ON ENERGY FRONT

#### Plans for New Plants

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 12 May 87 p 2

[Text]

THE Ministry of Energy is finalising plans for the construction of three petro-chemical plants and one natural gas plant, as part of a seven-item list of priority projects for the immediate future.

Energy Minister Kelvin Ramnath has said his ministry was completing studies for the construction of one methanol plant, two ammonia plants and a liquid natural gas plant. Recommendations on these would be ready for Cabinet approval in a month's time, he said.

"There are seven specific projects on which we are about ready to move, and these are four of them," Ramnath said, in answer to a question.

The Minister also reported on discussions he held on possible further development in the petroleum sector after attending an energy conference in Houston, Texas, last week.

He said two oil companies operating in the United States and an industrial plant construction company have expressed interest in setting up shop in Trinidad and Tobago.

Ramnath said both Occidental Oil and PECTEN, a subsidiary of Shell, are interested in securing offshore drilling rights here.

He said M.W. Kellogg, the company which was involved in the construction of one of the petro-chemical plants at Point Lisas, is likely to be in-

volved in the construction of an ammonia plant there. This new plant, he said, is to be integrated with the existing urea company, Fertilisers of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd.

Ramnath, who returned to Trinidad last Sunday night, said he held discussions with representatives of these companies during the five-day Houston conference.

Ramnath said both Occidental and PECTEN were "very, very interested" in securing exploration and drilling rights in the oil province off Trinidad's east coast.

He said his Ministry had already begun to identify which leases in that area could be made available in that regard. He said the Ministry was putting together the necessary package of information requested by these companies, prior to their arrival in Trinidad, for further discussions.

#### Gas-Plant Contract Issue

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 12 May 87 p 2

[Text]

THE QUESTION of national security does not arise even if a foreign company gets the nod to build the new natural gas platform off Trinidad's east coast, Energy Minister Kelvin Ramnath asserted yesterday.

Ramnath said the Government could not go ahead with the project without first making its own appraisal of the situation.

But, he said, talking to reporters during the tea-break at yesterday's sitting of the House of Representatives, a deci-

sion on this matter will not be taken on the issue of Amoco and the security of supply.

He said it could be assumed Amoco was now in a position to jeopardise the national interest, if it wanted to, the security of energy supply being jeopardised by the large share of off-shore oil it now produced.

He said he was awaiting reports from two separate committees appointed since his Government took office at the start of the year before deciding which way to go on this project.

And, he said, if the project went to Amoco, it would be a decision taken in the best interest of the country, adding that the question of na-

tional security in this matter was open for interpretation.

The project is for the supply of natural gas from reserve fields in the south-east off-shore fields. One project known as the SECC (South-East Coast Consortium) is to be undertaken by a joint arrangement between the two state-owned land-based oil companies.

In a contribution in the House of Representatives yesterday, Opposition Leader Patrick Manning said he feared the project could go to Amoco, thereby jeopardising the country's security of supply. He said this move could also be detrimental to the national interest.

### Opposition Warning

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 12 May 87 p 1

[Text] Opposition leader Patrick Manning charges yesterday that there was an apparent attempt to manipulate petroleum policy away from the best interests of the country.

He said the government was delaying the decision in construction of a platform for the production of natural gas of the south-east coast, adding that the longer the delay the greater were the chances that the project would go to Amoco. This Manning said would not make for increased security of supply and for the national interest.

Manning was making his contribution on the bill to give effect to fiscal measures in the 1987 Budget. Debate on this matter began last Friday and resumed yesterday.

He spoke publicly for the first time of a gas shortage in Trinidad and Tobago in November 1983, while he was Minister of Energy.

He said the same thing could happen next year, stating that there were letters warning of this now lying in the Ministry. He said the longer the government took to make up its mind on going ahead with the natural gas project, the greater the chances for another shortage.

Charging Energy Minister Kelvin Ramnath with being among those who were misleading Prime Minister A. N. R. Robinson. Manning said that there "was an apparent attempt to manipulate the petroleum policy of the country." This

he said was being done to give the advantage to a foreign multinational corporation.

Both Amoco and the two state-owned oil companies are competing in two separate projects for the new natural gas platform off the south-east coast.

He said the Prime Minister should be presenting a new budget to the country.

Manning said the fiscal measures in the 1987 Budget had failed, stating that this was demonstrated by the admission of Prime Minister A. N. R. Robinson himself.

He quoted from Robinson's address to the nation last month, saying that the Prime Minister had conceded that there was an overall revenue shortfall of \$251 million from what was projected in the Budget for the first quarter of 1987.

"At that rate," Manning said, "it is reasonable to assume that there is going to be a further deficit of \$1 billion more than what was already forecasted."

### Oil Technology Export

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 12 May 87 p 25

[Text]

THE beleaguered petroleum servicing industry is about to get a shot in the arm with discussions now being held for the export of workover expertise and equipment to the fledgling oil industry in Ecuador.

This was disclosed yesterday by Energy Minister Kelvin Ramnath in an interview after he returned from an oil pipeline-linking ceremony on the Ecuador-Colombia border at the weekend. Ramnath had gone to witness the tying-in ceremony at the invitation of the Ecuadorian Oil Minister.

The trip had cost the government only a return airfare to Caracas since Ramnath travelled to Ecuador on the private jet taking the Venezuelan Oil Minister to the ceremony. His stay in Ecuador had been arranged by the Ecuadorian Government.

Ramnath said the visit was in keeping with the new thrust by the government to seek economic ties with Latin America. This country was represented at the Latin American and Caribbean Oil Ministers' Conference (GIPLA-CEP).

Ramnath said a team from the National Oil Company of Venezuela (CEPE) will be arriving in this country shortly to discuss proposals for the export of drilling workover expertise and equipment.

Ramnath said the discussions with CEPE was a direct result of representations made by the South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce for avenues to be explored by the ministry for the export of idle equipment and expertise in petroleum servicing to Latin America, particularly Venezuela and Ecuador.

The minister said both the Venezuelan and Ecuadorian oil ministries had showed "great interest" in the proposals for the export of workover expertise and equipment. Trinidad and Tobago, he said, was one of the oldest oil-producing countries in the hemisphere with tremendous petroleum expertise.

He said it was in the interest of this country to keep in close touch with the Latin American oil-producing nations to develop mutually beneficial bilateral relations.

Ramnath said he was informed by this country's Ambassador in Caracas Christopher Thomas that a Venezuelan team was expected in the country next week from the Venezuelan Petroleum Chamber and Metallurgy Association to discuss joint ventures and closer trading relations.

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CARONI 5-YEAR INVESTMENT, DEVELOPMENT PLAN DISCUSSED

Diversification Program

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 May 87 p 1

[Text]

**SAN FERNANDO**—CARONI (1975) LTD proposes to invest \$100.78 million between 1988 and 1992, \$33.58 million of which is earmarked for its diversification programme.

Bulk of the investment (75 percent) will be from 1988 to 1990.

That was revealed in a paper entitled "Medium-term plan — A perspective for Caroni (1975) Ltd", presented on behalf of the company by its Corporate Planner, Foster Bissessar, at a symposium held yesterday at Sevilla Club, Brechin Castle, Couva.

According to the paper, recurrent expenditure estimates show no reduction since reduced costs on sugar

operations will be accompanied by increasing expenses on the diversification programme.

For the diversification programme, recurrent cost is projected to increase from \$15.3 million in 1988 to \$24.6 million in 1992, or 60.8 percent. The debenture bond interest adds a further \$11.5 million.

Total revenue is projected to increase from \$252.10 million in 1988 to \$281.4 million in 1992, or 12 percent. It is assumed sugar revenues will be constant.

Projected operating deficit is expected to fall from \$155 million in 1988 to \$104 million in 1992—a decrease of 33 percent.

Cut in Expenditures

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 25 May 87 p 34

[Text]

**DESPITE** an additional expenditure burden of \$11.5 million in bond interest, State-owned Caroni Ltd is expected to reduce its dependence on the Treasury by some 15 per cent to finance its 1987 recurrent budget.

In a five-year development plan 1988-92 discussed at a special symposium at Sevilla Club in Couva last Tuesday, the company's corporate planner Foster Bissessar anticipated a further drop of 16 per cent in recurrent expenditure during that pe-

riod. The company made it clear there would be no retrenchment during this period.

The projections by Caroni Ltd, as outlined by Bissessar, are based on the industry producing 100,000 tonnes of sugar annually with 50 per cent of the canes needed to be supplied by cane farmers.

It is expected that the company would reduce its cane production from 725,000 tonnes in 1988 to 525,000 tonnes in 1992. Similarly, the acreage under cultivation is scheduled to decrease from 35,000 acres in

1988 to 25,000 acres in 1992.

The reduction in the production of cane and the decrease in acreage will depend on an increased supply of cane from cane farmers. According to the medium term plan, the company would pursue the distribution of an additional 5,000 acres of land to cane farmers in the south to ensure a 50-50 production mix within the period.

Said the plan: "On the assumption that the distribution will be affected by the latest December 1987, farmers' production will peak in 1990, amounting to 575,000 tonnes, an overall increase of 38 per cent over the 1986 level

of 416,000 tonnes."

The projected recurrent budget estimates for the plan period 1988-92 anticipates that:

- A shrinkage in the company's cane operations will inevitably be accompanied by significant reductions in recurrent expenditure;

- Further reductions will be induced through tight management controls, rigid controls within approved-projected budgets and cost-consciousness throughout the company's operations; overall and continuous improvements in efficiency and productivity levels, and introduction of appropriate and workable cost-minimising techniques in field and factory operations.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

RODRIGUEZ NAMED POLICE COMMISSIONER, REPLACING BURROUGHS

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 4 May 87 p 10

[Text]

PORT OF SPAIN — The Sunday Guardian newspaper today said Louis Rodriguez, former commissioner on a committee to look into the country's illicit drug trade, would be Trinidad and Tobago's new Police Commissioner.

Rodriguez was one of three government-appointed commissioners who last year presented a report on drug abuse which led to the suspension from office of 53 police officers, five magistrates, and a customs official linked in the report with the illegal drug trade.

Former Police Commissioner, Randolph Burroughs, also named in the report, had retired from office days before the Scott Drug Report was made public in February.

Rodriguez, Permanent Secretary in the National Security Ministry under the last government, had been withdrawn from the post in a reshuffle two months ago and placed as an ex officio member of the Airports Authority (AATT).

This was an apparent move to have him work on drug importation through the country's airport.

Informed sources told CANA last week the new commissioner to replace Burroughs, whose retirement became effective last month, was to be named this week after "details" were ironed out. The identity of the new top cop has been the subject of local press speculation since March.

Rodriguez, who joined the local force in 1955 after training at Hendon College, England, rose through the ranks only to be transferred to a new post shortly before Police Commissioner Tony May retired, making way for Burroughs in 1978.

The Guardian said one reason for the delay in Rodriguez's appointment, expected last week, was the fact that Police Service Commission regulations state that the commissioner must come from the first division of the force. (CANA)

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

EXPORT INCREASE--While exports in the non-petroleum sector increased for the first three months of the year, total sales declined due to reductions in the mineral fuels and chemicals sectors. Non-oil trade amounted to \$176,138,648, an increase of \$58,141,501 or 49 percent over the corresponding period in 1986. Total trade for the period was \$1,244,837,179, a decline of \$362,675,854 or 23 percent. Sales in the mineral fuels sector amounted to \$371,091,193 or 29 percent while in the chemicals sector sales were \$49,726,163 or 22 percent. According to figures correlated by the Export Development Corporation (EDC), non-petroleum sales to Caricom were \$42,727,701, an increase of \$16,050,369 or 60.16 percent. Total Caricom sales were \$160,238,249, an increase of \$14 million or 10.32 percent. Through the efforts of the EDC the country is also moving away from its dependence on petroleum exports. In 1985 the petroleum sector accounted for 82.1 percent of total trade while in 1986 it dropped 72.8 percent. The country is now exporting more than 262 separate products. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 May 87 p 1] /9274

SUGAR SHORTFALL--The 1987 sugar crop came to an end yesterday with State-owned Caroni Ltd falling short of its target sugar production of 100,000 tonnes. With the Brechin Castle Sugar Factory grinding off its last intake of cane by Wednesday, the company may reach the 86,000-tonne mark. The company has ground 1,105,072 tonnes of cane, falling short by about 95,000 tonnes with a cane to sugar ratio of 12.93. It was learnt that the company was able to take up all the canes that were harvested both from its plantations and farmers. According to the new plans for the sugar company, farmers may be asked to increase their supply of cane for the new crop. The fall in production this year had been attributed to the record number of malicious cane fires which devastated several thousands of acres of the company's fields. [Text] [Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 26 May 87 p 5] /9274

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END

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